

Democrats are about to make history
SF's LGBT/AIDS ally Rep. Nancy Pelosi
set to become top woman in Congress.

page 17

Flag flap hits the Castro
Merchant group ponders
guidelines for lowering flag.

page 2



'Heaven' can't wait
Todd Haynes returns
with 'Far from Heaven.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 46 • 14 November 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

FDA approves rapid HIV test

by Bob Roeher

The long wait for HIV test results is about to end. The Food and Drug Administration approved the first "rapid test" on November 7 and the manufacturer, OraSure Technologies Inc., hopes to have it on the market by the end of the year.

OraQuick takes about 20 minutes to determine if antibodies to HIV are present in a sample drop of blood. It is 99.6 percent accurate, about the same as HIV tests currently in use. Those tests take several days and standard practice is to have the person come back a week later to learn the results.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson took the highly unusual step of announcing the approval at a news conference. It is part of a concerted effort by the Bush administration to demonstrate its commitment to fighting AIDS.

"Each year, 8,000 HIV-infected people who come to public clinics for HIV testing do not return a week later to receive their test results," said Thompson. "With this new test, in less than a half an hour they can learn preliminary information about their HIV status, allowing them to get the care they need to slow the progression of their disease and to make precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of this deadly virus."

"This means that we will be able to give people counseling and testing in one session as opposed to two," said Cornelius Baker, executive director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic, the large AIDS services organization in Washington, D.C.

Public health officials believe that the increased efficacy and no loss to follow up from those who never pick up their results will mean that more people will learn their HIV status. Estimates are that about a quarter of those with HIV, some 250,000 people, do not know they are infected with the virus. The flip side is that this is likely to put an increased burden on already stressed AIDS services.

Baker conceded that they will have to rethink their operations and prior-

page 21 ►



OraQuick HIV test

Newark struggles in aftermath of transgender teen's murder



Paul Velez

Eddie "Gwen" Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, spoke to about 300 people at a vigil for the slain teen-ager, as attorney Gloria Allred, left, Araujo's sister, far right, and a good friend, far left, look on.

Hundreds attend vigil; high school stages play

by Joe Dignan

In spite of the resistance of school officials, about 300 students, parents, friends, and activists from around the Bay Area gathered in the pouring rain on a lawn in front of Newark Memorial High School Friday, November 8, for a vigil in the memory of murdered transgendered teen-ager Eddie "Gwen" Araujo.

Newark PFLAG organizer Paul Clifford said that the vigil, produced by PFLAG, East Bay Pride, and a new Fremont-Newark student group, PRIDE!, was intended to raise awareness of problems facing LGBT youth in Newark schools.

The demonstration itself became a point of contention in a community that is trying to come to grips with the causes of last month's murder. LGBT advocacy groups have charged that ingrained homophobia in the community and school system is to blame for Araujo's murder.

"The silence and hesitancy of city leaders in Fremont and Newark have created the conditions that caused Gwen's death," said Pete King, president of East Bay Pride.

They point to the school district's refusal to cooperate in organizing the vigil as another sign of the district's hesitancy.

"All of our efforts to contact the school failed. No one would return our calls. We interceded through a teacher who said that no one would speak with PFLAG. Period," Clifford said.

In the end, the organizers say they convinced the mayor and superintendent of schools to attend only after Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, agreed to speak at the vigil. "We impressed on the school that the vigil was going to happen whether they participated or not," Clifford said.

Guerrero delivered an impassioned plea to the crowd, huddled under a sea of umbrellas. School officials had refused to let the organizers use a room in the school for the

page 18 ►

AEF turns 20

AIDS organization hosts gala Wednesday

by Zak Szymanski

It started out, like many nonprofits, as a small gathering of concerned friends who wanted to address some crucial unmet needs. Twenty years later, the AIDS Emergency Fund has a unique mix of community-based leadership and widespread recognition, remaining one of the few organizations that has been able to grow and expand without compromising its mission.

AEF provides emergency cash grants to lower-income individuals with HIV/AIDS who need assistance paying rent, utility bills, and other necessities not covered by health plans or other programs. Recipients can receive up to \$600 the first year they apply, and \$400 annually in the years that follow. The organization does all of this without spending more than 10 percent of its budget on overhead costs, which means 90 percent of its money raised always goes directly to people affected by HIV. By December 2002, AEF will have served 3,300 clients this year alone, and provided more than \$20 million in emergency grants to people with disabling illnesses. Its annual budget is now about \$1.7 million.

AEF will celebrate its staying power — and honor the survivors of, and lives lost to, the AIDS epidemic — at a 20th anniversary gala this

Wednesday, November 20 at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, 401 Van Ness Avenue. The gala is expected to be AEF's biggest fundraiser to date, and will feature emcee Hank Plante and entertainers Rita Moreno and Sharon McNight. The gala will also acknowledge important changes for AEF, including a 10 percent increase in its clientele since the beginning of this year alone, the first-ever hiring of an executive director, and the continued success of AEF's sister project, the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, modeled after AEF's grassroots giving efforts.

Perhaps none of the original founders of AEF could have seen this coming. In 1982, Walter Mellon and Rick Booth, who had helped to set up the first AIDS outpatient clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, called a meeting to discuss where their energies

page 14 ►



AEF has long been known for its penny drive, as shown by this Pride Parade contingent.

INSIDE

ALRP Law	20
BAR Talk	43
Classifieds	23
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out There	30
Out & About	36
OutRight	12
Personals	44
Sports Complex	22
Transmissions	10

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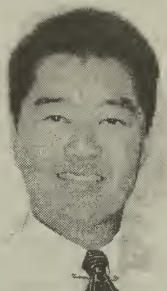
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A salute to Veterans



Jane Philomeni/Cland

Members of the predominantly gay Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion proudly took part in San Francisco's 83rd annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 10. A small crowd of about 2,000 people watched the parade, which started at 2nd Street and ended at Civic Center Plaza.

Police plan for dry Halloween in '03

by Matthew S. Bajko

As city officials plan to hold meetings to discuss what to do to control the crowds on Halloween night next year, San Francisco's police force is already working on how to limit alcohol consumption at the annual event.

After this past Halloween celebration became unruly and erupted into scattered violence, the police shut down off-site liquor sales at around 11:30 p.m. but allowed bars to continue serving customers inside their premises. All night long, officers and safety patrol members confiscated liquor bottles and beer cans from the throngs of people who descended upon the Castro neighborhood.

"Our biggest problem is alcohol," said Greg Corrales, Mission Station captain, who commanded

officers from a post on Market Street that night. "What's going to happen next year? At some point all the police in San Francisco aren't going to be able to control it."

While ideas differ on how to control the crowds at next year's Halloween, the Police Department has already determined sobering up revelers is the first priority. At a post-Halloween meeting with Castro area merchants on November 7, police officials pointed to the city's New Year's Eve celebration along the waterfront as an example of how to better plan for Halloween.

"The city throws a huge New Year's Eve alcohol-free party on the Embarcadero," said Greg Suhr, deputy chief of field operations. "If you had entertainment without alcohol, people would be coming here to have a good time and not to just consume alcohol."

The city already has a law on its books that makes public consumption of alcohol illegal, said Suhr. While the police have turned a blind eye to the law for many of the city's street fairs and parties, the department is no longer willing to do so during Halloween.

Starting next year, the officers said police will be looking for ways to prevent people from bringing in alcohol to the Castro area on Halloween night. By sending a message that the event is not a free-for-all for drunks, the police hope those rowdy revelers will opt to stay away from the Halloween party.

"We are not going to fix it overnight, but when word gets out hopefully people will realize this kind of behavior will not be tolerated and decide to stay home," said Corrales.

However, a blanket ban on alcohol page 23 ►

Merchants debate when to lower rainbow flag

by Matthew S. Bajko

The issue of when to lower the Castro's gigantic rainbow flag to half-mast is whipping up a storm of debate and acrimony within the city's LGBT community.

Meant as a celebration of the city's queer community, the flag has become an important symbol to many LGBT residents and an internationally-recognized landmark to countless gay tourists from around the world.

During the last several months, the flag has also become a powerful form of remembrance due to several high-profile gay and transgender deaths. But when and if the flag should be used in such a manner has become a point of contention.

This year, the flag was first lowered in June, when Jon C. Cook became the city's first gay police officer to die in the line of duty. The flag was lowered the day after his death and it remained at half-mast throughout the weekend.



Dartene/PhotoGraphics

Castro's rainbow flag at full mast

The gesture served as a touching tribute to Cook's fellow officers as they mourned the death of one of their own.

When local gay political consultant Robert Barnes died in August, using the flag as a way to

honor the deceased was once again suggested. Friends of Barnes wanted the flag lowered, and when they were originally told it would not be, they reportedly broke the lock on the flag and lowered it themselves.

Most recently, lowering the flag became a flash point of anger within the city's transgender community. After the tragic murder of Newark transgender teen-ager Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, transgendered activists wanted to have the flag flown at half-mast.

Initially, their request was turned down, with some saying the decision was based on transphobic sentiment. In the end, the flag was lowered in time for a community memorial honoring Araujo.

"I was accused of being anti-trans for saying, when do we draw the line?" said Patrick Batt, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, the business group in charge of maintaining the flag.

In an attempt to avoid such page 17 ►

Homelessness takes center stage in District 8 runoff

by Matthew S. Bajko

With an eye toward next year's mayoral election, District 2 Supervisor Gavin Newsom is throwing his full support, and that of his political operation, behind openly gay Bevan Dufty in the District 8 runoff race.

Dufty, a former aide to Mayor Willie Brown and Treasurer Susan Leal's chief of staff when she served as a city supervisor, faces a tough fight against out lesbian Eileen Hansen, a nonprofit consultant and former campaign strategist for Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Both want to replace Assemblyman-elect Mark Leno as the representative of the Castro, Noe Valley, and Glen Park in City Hall.

According to unofficial election returns posted November 12 that now include most absentee votes, Hansen leads Dufty 9,735 votes to 8,731 votes, or 36.26 percent to 32.52 percent.

At stake for Newsom is how his Proposition N, the Care Not Cash initiative that voters passed last week, will be implemented by the board. The measure aims to reduce cash handouts to the city's homeless from \$350 to \$59 a month and divert the money into providing housing and services.

Dufty came out in support of Care Not Cash, whereas Hansen vigorously opposed the measure during her campaign, saying it would not solve the city's problems. She instead supported Proposition O, which Ammiano put on the ballot at the last minute in reaction to Newsom's initiative.

Ensuring Dufty is on the board to help him implement the measure is of utmost concern to Newsom. Not only is Newsom endorsing Dufty, he is actively working on behalf of his campaign.

"I think it is essential. Let me not overstate that and not understate that. Eileen, whom I respect, is an advocate. She clearly is 100 percent diametrically opposed to implementation of Prop N," Newsom told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "In contrast, Bevan stands uniquely as a candidate who not only supports its promise but will, I believe, succeed in furthering its implementation and expanding on the expectation that the public has to meet its goals."

With a strong ally on the board and a platform of tackling the homeless issue to run on, Newsom's prospects of becoming



Bevan Dufty, left, and Eileen Hansen are in the December 10 runoff.

mayor could be greatly enhanced by Dufty winning the supervisor seat, although Leal, a longtime friend of Dufty's, has also thrown her hat into the mayoral ring. Leal, an out lesbian, also supports Dufty for supervisor. Newsom said he will not decide if he will enter the mayoral race until after the December 10 runoff election, although he maintains the outcome of the race will not have any bearing on his decision.

"I really do care deeply that Bevan is elected. It matters not politically for me but personally," said Newsom. "I have great expectations for Bevan. My political life frankly is secondary to his cause right now."

Dufty said his first priority if elected will be working with Newsom to implement the measure. He said he wants to bring together various city agencies to identify hotel rooms the city can master lease and social service agencies that can also provide supportive services.

"I am very committed to going to the board and making Care Not Cash successful. That is my first order of business," he said. "I want to get on the board and work with Gavin and roll up my sleeves. Basically we have until next July, so the first six months that is what my focus will be, that we can supply housing and services so we can rollover the cash benefits to services."

Although the Care Not Cash measure was approved by voters, Hansen said she still believes the city needs to implement its Continuum of Care Plan, which was developed by numerous community members to address the city's homeless problem but was never instituted.

"There are many roles a supervisor takes on and one is to make

sure legislation is implemented and that the will of the voters is carried out. So certainly I would do my job as a supervisor," said Hansen. "At the same time, I have grave concerns about the problems that implementation of Proposition N is going to cause."

She said she would work to put Proposition N in place along with the Continuum of Care Plan, which Hansen maintains "will seriously address the issue of homelessness and mitigate the draconian aspects of Proposition N."

In order to address the homeless issue appropriately, Hansen said the city must provide services for mental health, substance abuse, and housing. It is not enough to just take people's money away from them, she said.

"The crux of my criticism of Proposition N is it took money away from people who are homeless but did not put services in place of the money," said Hansen. "If we truly want to get people off the streets, it is not good enough to just take their money away without getting them off the streets and giving them the services to help them do that."

However, Newsom counters that the Continuum of Care Plan is not the cure-all that Hansen makes it out to be. And that having Dufty working alongside him on the board gives him the best chance to solve this issue.

"It is a useful document, but from my perspective, it is not gospel. It does not have all of the answers to the questions I have on homelessness," said Newsom. "Bevan will hit the ground running on Care Not Cash and on homeless reforms generally speaking. He is willing to stand up, to take risks and willing to listen to both sides." ▼



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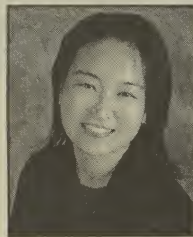
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Head games

by Jane Warner

Jersey at Sanchez, November 5, 9:17 p.m.: After parking his car, a man walking toward his residence was approached from behind by two men. "You got money?" the men asked. Suddenly one of the men grabbed the victim in a head lock and pulled him into some nearby bushes. The second suspect rifled through the man's pockets, found his wallet, and took \$30. The two robbers let the victim go then fled northbound on Vicksburg. As the victim walked home, he saw the suspects driving in an older white Camaro with the lights off. Police searched the area but could not find them. Suspect number one is described as an Hispanic male, 18-19 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, 160 pounds, wearing a white T-shirt and dark pants. Suspect number two is African American, 18-19 years old, 6 feet tall and 175 pounds, wearing a black cotton hat and dark clothing.



Crime & Punishment

Street, a man was approached by three other men who suddenly shoved him to the ground. One of the suspects held the man in a head lock as another suspect punched him in the right eye. "Where's your wallet?" they demanded. Fearing for his life, the man told them his wallet was in his back pants pocket.

One of the suspects took the wallet and rifled through it, taking \$40. Throwing the wallet onto the sidewalk, the suspect told the others, "Come on, nigga," and the trio ran west on Ford Street toward Noe.

The victim told police he was face down on the sidewalk during the assault and couldn't describe the assailants other than he believed that they were African American. Police think these suspects are the same men involved in the robbery at Jersey and Sanchez.

Dry try

Castro at 26th, November 8, 11:38 p.m.: A man walking southbound on Castro Street at 26th was approached by three young men, one of whom asked, "Do you have any money?" The man replied that he didn't, and started to walk faster. The three young men began to fol-

low him. "Why you got to be such a bitch?" one of them asked. Fearful, the man turned and saw one man was holding a switchblade. The man backed away but was quickly pinned against a car. The man emptied his pockets, showing that he had no money.

"Fuck this nigger," one of the suspects shouted and the three fled northbound on Castro then eastbound on Clipper. The man managed to call police on his cell phone. Officers arrived and found the suspects walking on Clipper Street and arrested them. A short distance away was a red-handled switchblade. The three alleged robbers, all 14 years old, were taken to the Youth Guidance Center and booked for attempted armed robbery.

Dog bites man

Starbucks, 4094 18th Street, November 9, noon: A man sitting on the bench outside the coffee shop offered to hold his friend's dog while his friend went inside to get coffee. As the man waited with the leashed Labrador mix, a mailman walked by. Without provocation, the dog nipped the mailman on his calf. An ambulance was called, but the letter carrier suffered only a minor injury. A report was made, and the dog's guardian was cited, but the dog was released at the scene. ▼

Face plant

Sanchez at Ford, November 5, 10:46 p.m.: While walking southbound on Sanchez from Ford

Historic deputy firing a mixed bag for TG activists

by Zak Szymanski

A mixture of anger and gratitude defined a press conference held at City Hall on Tuesday, November 12, to announce the firing of a sheriff's deputy for his alleged sexual assault of a transgender former inmate.

Tumeka Godwin, according to her attorneys, suffered months of abuse at the hands of Sheriff's Deputy Anthony Hughes while in detention at San Francisco County Jail late last year. According to a civil lawsuit, Godwin was directed by Hughes on multiple occasions to strip and reveal her genitalia. During one such incident, Hughes reportedly ordered Godwin to masturbate until her penis was erect. On other occasions, Hughes reportedly directed Godwin to show her breasts and buttocks, and to dance naked and masturbate for him. On several occasions, the lawsuit states, Hughes got an erection during these routines.

Within days of filing her complaint, an investigation was launched and Hughes was fired.

Anger, said activists and advocates, was justified in that transphobia and the abuse of transgen-



Chris Daley, center, and attorney Jana Carter at Tuesday's news conference. Carter is holding a photo of Tumeka Godwin.

der people continues to be a widespread problem in city law enforcement institutions. But they also were thankful to Sheriff Mike Hennessey for taking the unprecedented step of firing a deputy based on alleged transgender abuse.

"Well, here we are again," remarked Chris Daley of the Transgender Law Center, commenting on the common nature of the complaint against city law enforcement. Daley, who said that in speaking to leaders of the law enforcement community, it is obvious that they understand the need

to respect all people.

"Deputy Chief Jan Dempsey gets it. Sheriff Hennessey gets it," said Daley. "Why is it that the people who run the jails get it but the people who work in the jails can't get it?"

Godwin's attorney Jana Carter celebrated the rare victory, but cautioned that Hughes's firing, without systematic overhaul of the system, "is like stepping on a roach and calling it extermination."

Activists at the press conference called for annual police and sheriff's department trainings and

page 20 ►

Two TG events address hatred, legal issues

by Zak Szymanski

Two events — one to remember the victims of hate crimes and transphobia, and another to tackle legal questions — will address the transgender community this week.

On Monday, November 18, Transcending, a program of the

Ark of Refuge, presents "Transcenders in the Law," a forum at 1025 Howard Street, between 6th and 7th streets, from 5-7 p.m.

The presentation will feature Alex Fagan, assistant chief of the San Francisco Police Department; Jan Dempsey, deputy chief of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department; assistant district attorneys Jim Hammer and Kimberly Guil-

foyle Newsom; Cheri Toney of the Office of Citizen Complaints; Larry Brinkin of the Human Rights Commission; and Kimberly Carver of the Transgender Law Center. The forum is free and includes food and refreshments.

On Wednesday, November 20, the internationally-recognized Transgender Day of Remembrance

page 21 ►

AIDS panel releases antiretroviral guidelines

by Matthew S. Bajko

Doctors treating people who are living with HIV and suffering from such effects like facial wasting and Crix belly due to the medications they are taking now have guidance on how to deal with such conditions in their patients.

An international AIDS education organization this month released the first comprehensive recommendations for assessing, monitoring, and treating metabolic complications such as insulin resistance and abnormal body fat distribution that can occur in association with HIV infection and antiretroviral therapy.

Published in the November 4 issue of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, the guidelines are the work of a volunteer panel of medical officials created by International AIDS Society-USA.

"These recommendations are important for clinicians because significant metabolic complications are affecting as many as half of all HIV-infected patients on antiretroviral regimens. Concerns about complications are causing some patients to delay initiating therapy and others to reconsider their use of these life-saving medications," said the panel's chair, Dr. Morris Schambelan, a profes-

sor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and director of the General Clinical Research Center at San Francisco General Hospital.

The panel's recommendations identify five major areas of concern: insulin resistance with alterations in glucose metabolism; abnormalities in lipid metabolism; lactic acid disorders; bone disease; and abnormal body fat distribution. These metabolic complications are troubling for many HIV patients, with high cholesterol and blood glucose levels increasing the risk of heart disease and stroke. In addition, lactic acidosis can be fatal.

In the article, the panel makes recommendations to clinicians regarding tests to identify and monitor metabolic complications in HIV-infected patients on antiretroviral therapy in each of the five areas. The panel evaluates and recommends such approaches as switching antiretroviral therapy, treatment of the complication with medication, and behavior change such as diet and exercise for each complication.

"Like the first guidelines for antiretroviral use issued by the IAS-USA in 1996 and updated thereafter, these recommendations are a work in progress and may change as new data become available. They represent what is reasonable to do in a clinical

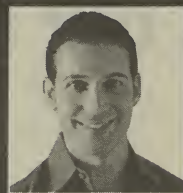
practice based on the currently available evidence," said Schambelan.

The panel also calls for ongoing research into the complications and what causes each in HIV-positive patients.

"We are not completely sure about what role HIV-infection plays and what role the antiretrovirals play in each instance," said Schambelan. "For example, AIDS-related wasting was the first metabolic problem seen in HIV-infected patients and that was clearly associated with HIV infection itself. For the current metabolic complications, antiretroviral medications as well as host factors appear to also play a role."

To develop the recommendations, the AIDS society selected a 12-member international panel of experts in HIV clinical care, antiretroviral therapy, and endocrine and metabolic disorders in 2000. The panel reviewed results of clinical, epidemiological, and basic science studies and data, including studies of similar abnormalities in non-HIV infected persons.

For each metabolic complication, the panel reviewed all available evidence. The recommendations of the panel were determined by full group consensus. The full report is available online at www.jaids.com.



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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 32, Number 46
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OPEN FORUM

Our choice in Dist. 8: Dufty

Voters in San Francisco's District 8 last week determined that two candidates will be in the December 10 runoff, since no one garnered more than 50 percent of the vote. Our previously endorsed candidate did not make the cut, so we're taking this opportunity to modify our endorsement in the race. Our choice is clear: Bevan Dufty would make the better supervisor.



Bevan Dufty

Some voters may be hesitant to choose Dufty because he used to head up Mayor Willie Brown's Office of Neighborhood Services. But over the course of the campaign, Dufty has shown that rather than align himself solidly behind any of San Francisco's political factions, he is more interested in serving the residents of District 8 – and the city as a whole.

This week, as Dufty was lining up support – including endorsements by Supervisor Mark Leno and the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee – he told us that he wants to focus on the “nuts and bolts” of city government to make District 8, particularly the Castro, a vibrant neighborhood. “I have a vision for the Castro,” he said. “I definitely want to change the neighborhood for the better.”

That means coming up with solutions for the growing homeless problem, improving public safety, and devising programs for the city's young people, including queer youth. With the passage of Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash measure, the Board of Supervisors needs someone like Dufty to help implement the program. His opponent in the runoff, Eileen Hansen, strongly opposed Care Not Cash and it is unclear whether she would commit to implementing it. After two years of near-constant board gridlock, we don't need more stalling over this issue. The voters have spoken loud and clear that the status quo is no

longer acceptable, and the Board of Supervisors is, in our opinion, obligated to follow their mandate for change.

We believe that Dufty will be an independent voice on the board, and that he will not be a rubber stamp for the mayor. The mayor himself noted that point last week, when he was adamant that Dufty is not a “puppet of the mayor” as some last-minute election hit pieces implied. Dufty told us that despite those fliers, he believes people will see beyond such tactics. “No one asked me to run for this job,” he told us. Dufty added that his early decision to limit campaign contributions to \$100 from people who live or work in San Francisco is evidence that he will be accountable to voters and city residents, not special interests. “It's

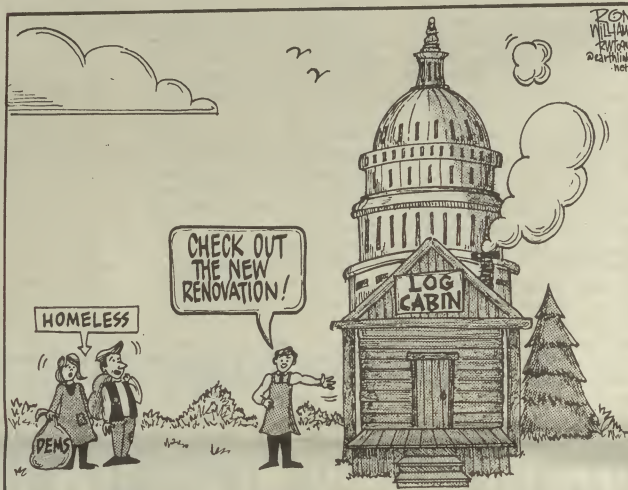
a sacred responsibility to be accountable and do what you believe is the right thing to do,” he said.

Dufty has been in public service for many years and has long wanted to run for office. We believe his experience in drafting legislation, working on city budget issues, and helping to solve peoples' problems will serve him well if elected supervisor.

The December 10 runoff is only a few weeks away and comes in the midst of the busy holiday season. Victory in the race likely will come down to whichever candidate has the more successful absentee voter effort. District 8 voters who are tired of business as usual, and those who want a Board of Supervisors that will be less factious, would do well to vote for Bevan Dufty in District 8. ▼



Editorial



Amazing grace

by Monica Taher

Gwen was laid out in a beautiful black dress, impeccably made up. Her nails were perfectly polished. She looked beautiful. When the family allowed media in and cameras surrounded the casket in the Chapel of the Roses, Gwen's grandmother cried out and fainted. It was just too much.

Last month my colleague Loren Javier and I were in Newark, California, to support the community and the family of Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old Latina transgender teen who was brutally murdered in early October. We arrived expecting that, among other things, we'd be helping to shield the mourners at Gwen's service from a protest by notorious hate-monger Fred Phelps and his band of pickets. Phelps had threatened to protest at the funeral, and media from all over the country were there to cover the event.

Hundreds came to the church that day (though not Phelps, whose clan instead paraded its “God Hates Fags” and “Eddie in Hell” signs outside the grieving family's home the night before). Gwen's relatives and friends carried flowers. Some of Gwen's former classmates wore T-shirts with Gwen's picture and the words, “We really love you underneath it all” – lyrics from No Doubt singer Gwen Stefani's latest song. Back when she was going by the name Eddie, Gwen adopted her name in homage to her musical heroine. And in one of many acts of compassion that day, Stefani had called Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen's mom, to offer her condolences.

It was attorney Gloria Allred, hired to represent the family, who had invited and escorted us into the church. And later, as we walked out together, Allred dropped her professional veneer and began to cry. She hugged me for the longest time, saying, “Thank you, thank you for the work you

do.” I was so overwhelmed, I couldn't respond.

The outpouring of love and compassion for Gwen and her family was remarkable. Even in a moment of horrific grief, a palpable sense of hope quietly transformed us. That ability to turn tragedy into hope is something I have seen time and again as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community has struggled to understand the hatred, intolerance, and violence that is so often directed against us.

Our community's search for answers and understanding amid tragedy was apparent during the days following Gwen's funeral as community leaders, organizations and individuals gathered throughout the Bay Area to honor Gwen's life and memory.

At Gwen's funeral, students from Newark Memorial High School's production of *The Laramie Project* came to support the family. Dressed in their angel costumes, they lined the sidewalk as Gwen's casket was carried into the church. Afterward, they gathered in a circle to join hands and sing “Amazing Grace” – and slowly, people in the crowd began to sing with them. I looked around and saw Latino, African-American, Asian, Caucasian, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, heterosexual, old, and young people singing together.

The experience reminded me that in too many cases, when tragedy strikes, we're not always there for one another. When Matthew Shepard was murdered, the LGBT community stood united in its grief and outrage. Yet other attacks have not connected us in the same way. When Chicana lesbian Juana Vega or Colombian gay activist Eddie Garzón or African American MTF transgender woman Tyra Hunter or openly gay Two-Spirit teenager Fred Martinez were

murdered, fewer people took notice – despite the work of our community to focus attention on their lives and the intolerance that fueled their deaths.

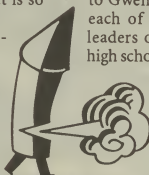
Make no mistake about it: anti-gay and anti-trans harassment and hate-violence are realities that many in our community face each and every day, whether the nation takes notice or not. And the solidarity and outpouring of support we've seen in response to Gwen's murder tells me that it's up to each of us – whether we're community leaders or allies, media professionals, or high school students – to tell our stories. Because that's the only way things are going to change.

I hope I never lose my sense of horror at terrible, heinous crimes like Gwen's murder. But I am glad to know that tragedy and mourning are not the only outcomes of such crimes. They can

empower and bring a community together. This Wednesday, November 20, the LGBT community will commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance (www.rememberingourdead.org/day/) in different cities around the country, including San Francisco. This day has been set aside to memorialize those who were killed because of transphobic hatred or prejudice.

I'll be there on that day, along with hundreds of others. But I look forward to a day when hate-motivated violence is just a footnote in history books – not the headline in today's newspaper. That's what I and so many others work for every day – so that people like Gwen can live their lives freely and without fear. ▼

Monica Taher is the western regional media manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Congratulations Nancy!

My congratulations to Nancy Pelosi on her impending ascension to the leadership of the Democratic Party in the U.S. House of Representatives. If she is successful on Thursday, she will have realized the dream of Phil Burton. All of us can be very proud of Nancy's accomplishments; she has represented us well.

Around the country, a lot of people who don't know Nancy are going to be surprised. Nancy combines her childhood experience in Baltimore with the sometimes chaotic San Francisco. With voters paying close attention to her every move, she has dealt with a multitude of competing interests and maintained friendships throughout the process. Knowing that politics requires both consensus and clear decisions, Nancy is well qualified for leadership. Like her, more of California's Democratic women should step forward and exercise leadership in a party that desperately needs it.

In the recent elections Republicans picked up votes from the middle not because their ideology resonated deeply with these voters but because they played a smarter game of politics than the Democrats. This is truly a rare occurrence, but this time the national Republicans had a clear message, they restricted infighting within the party, and they mobilized their bases of support. Everything fell into place. The Democratic Party seemed without a message, and the bases were not sufficiently motivated to get to the polls.

I believe Nancy's job is not to move to the right, as many are urging her to do, but to reclaim the center. As Bush and the Republicans (who technically represent a minority of American voters) move ahead with their conservative agenda, the Democrats need to reinforce the American ideals of equality, justice and self-determination. Nancy needs to remind Americans that ours is a country that believes in a respected judiciary; a country that believes in corporate and personal honesty, a country that believes in a sound economy and a healthy environment, and a country that provides opportunities not restrictions.

In short, the Democratic Party must be seen as the party of common sense. This is no mean feat, but having a clear message is the right place to start, and the Republican agenda does not make sense for most Americans. The ideals of the Democratic Party are widely shared by a majority of Americans. It is up to the Democratic leadership to reiterate them in staking out their turf. They must demonstrate their commitment to finding practical, workable solutions to the complex problems that face us. They must point out the painful consequences of the GOP's easy one-sided proposals and put themselves on the line to stop them. Democrats must be visibly committed to a government that includes all Americans, not just the well-paid. Without strong Democratic leadership, we have reason to be afraid. To be very afraid.

As she assumes her new role, I want to paraphrase John Kennedy and say today to Nancy that I ask not what you can do for me, but what can I do for you to help the Democratic Party regain its rightful place as the political leader of the United States?

Chuck Forester
San Francisco

Good riddance, Olympic bid

I was elated to hear that San Francisco was not chosen as a site for the Olympic Games. Why, you ask? Because I vividly remember the discriminatory and prejudicial attitude of the International Olympic Committee when they sued the founder(s) of the Gay Games for using the word "Olympics." Never mind that there are organizations such as the Special Olympics, the Police Olympics, the Senior Olympics, etc., but God forbid the "Olympics" should in any way be associated with gay people, even if numerous gays and lesbians participate in the competition. And let's not forget the recent scandal of bribery associated with the International Olympic Committee. I'm appalled that San Francisco even considered accepting such an invitation, all in the name of greed. And I sure won't miss the additional traffic the Games would have caused, in an area already plagued by traffic stress. Good luck New York... you'll need it.

Dean Tomich
Redwood Estates, California

No meds for this HIVer

It is interesting to see that out of several responses to Matthew Bajko's article ["New AIDS campaign hits a nerve," October 31] my main concern was not mentioned.

I am not an AIDS denialist. I also believe AIDS meds offer viable benefits in some cases. But Mr. Bajko's third paragraph infers all HIVers suffer illness due to HIV and the blanket statement all HIVers must take AIDS meds to survive is biased and plain untrue.

I have been HIV-positive for over 13 years. I have never taken any AIDS meds despite intense pressure from doctors and the majority of the HIV communi-

ty. My T-cell count consistently stays in the 500-700+ range. My viral load has only once gone over 3,600 and that was a spike of 8,200. I have never had a documented opportunistic infection. And I have met others like me.

Blanket statements such as Mr. Bajko's only fortify the AIDS Inc. status quo party line the actively silences any reasoned opinions that differ. This also makes it nearly impossible for newly diagnosed yet perfectly healthy people to resist starting meds or even contemplate the decision.

I have stopped counting the number of otherwise healthy HIVers with good blood work numbers I've met who are on the meds (and suffering debilitating side effects) solely because "my doctor told me to." Listen up! If your health is good a positive HIV test is not a sound reason to start on the admittedly (even by the people pushing them) toxic drugs. I am living proof that waiting to begin treatment is a viable alternative. People like myself are surviving with alternative treatments such as acupuncture, Chinese medicine, herbs, and stress reduction including various lifestyle and work choice changes.

Readers, ask yourself: when was the last time you read anything about people like me? I'm not talking about ACT UP or the "AIDS is over" people (although I can appreciate their frustration with AIDS Inc.). I'm talking about healthy HIVers who decide to postpone preemptive theoretical drug regimes in favor of a wait and see attitude. Where are our stories? Well, here is mine.

Larry O. Doss
San Francisco



Mailstrom

Fundies help fundies - again

Once again, Muslim fundamentalists have strengthened Christian fundamentalists, by helping to elect Republicans. Iranian fundies humiliated and defeated President Carter, thus delivering the

White House to Reagan. (Later, President Reagan rewarded them, by secretly helping Iran re-arm.)

Now al Qaeda fundies have given Republicans control of the Senate. This will allow confirmation of new fundie justices on the U.S. Supreme Court, where they can tear our Bill of Rights to shreds.

This unspoken fundie alliance isn't a paradox. Both fundie factions are anti-woman and anti-queer. At international conferences, when issues touch on sexuality, the Bush administration openly sides with reactionary Islamic governments and the Vatican - against moderate and progressive nations in Europe, the New World, and elsewhere.

Congratulations, Osama bin Laden. Your fundamentalism will infect our highest court, and reduce our freedoms for decades to come.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Disputes 'overwhelming' victory

Prop N won an overwhelming victory? Care Not Cash wins big? That seems to be taking editorial license a bit far considering that only 58 percent voted in favor of Proposition N while 41 percent opposed it. The point spread is hardly overwhelming considering the big money campaign carried out by Gavin Newsom and his business partners to convince people that taking away money from the working (yes, working) poor will make the city a better place. In addition to this, Proposition O was supported by 48 percent, yet your article says that Proposition O was "soundly defeated." Clearly, 51 percent to 48 percent does not indicate a "sound" defeat. Those who have been organizing against Proposition N will certainly not give up in the face of these election returns. Rather, we will double efforts in support of comprehensive solutions that value human life and proven to succeed, not politically motivated plans that have failed in countless other cities already.

Melissa Schweisguth
San Francisco

A sad, sad sign

Recently on craigslist.org I've seen a lot of ads of guys looking for sex with other guys. There appears to be something for just about everyone. And anyone who goes on there for a couple days in a row can see the same ads over and over again. (Either guys are getting what they want and wanting more of it, or they're not getting it, and just keep hoping.)

With all the talk about HIV infections on the rise, I got curious and did an experiment. So I went on there and posted an ad announcing myself as a hairy top and that I wanted to dump a load in someone's hole now. Talk about an effective way to get your mailbox flooded with non-spam mail.

I mean, within one hour, on a school night, I got 25 replies from guys. Many had photos. While I expected a lot of responses from positive guys (since I hadn't listed my status), I got a lot from negative guys. They were willing to come over and take my load now, as I'd asked, sight unseen. Almost no one asked me

next page ►

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about my status.

What are all of us really looking for? Sex? Affection? Someone to take away the lonelies for just a couple of minutes, only for it to creep on in an hour later? A little connection?

When we're out there looking for whatever, whether it is sex, affection, love, or partners, maybe we need to think about how we can do so without screwing around with our mental or emotional or spiritual or purely physical health.

Sex is a damn good thing. But sex without paying attention and without some kind of respect? Come on — 20 guys willing to take my load, regardless of the consequences? That is a sad, sad sign.

Tony Reynolds
 San Francisco

Homeowner for Hansen

As a homeowner, small business owner and SF resident for 24 years I will be honored to have Eileen Hansen represent me as supervisor in District 8. I respect her compassion, intelligence, and independence and integrity. Let's all remember to vote for her on December 10.

Larry Wisch
 San Francisco

Progressive for Hansen

I am a gay man whose life has been enriched by the progressive attitudes of the Bay Area since I moved here in 1968. Now I'm writing to endorse Eileen Hansen for supervisor, and to urge my neighbors to examine her record and do the same.

I was editor of the Castro community newspaper, the *Castro Star* and continued for a while after it folded into the *San Francisco Observer* so I am familiar with neighborhood issues.

As the recent elections proved, this country is in dire need of leaders who represent the best values of our communities. With Eileen, we have a candidate on the ballot with a proven record of personal integrity, negotiating skills, and receptivity to creative input. Through her years of service in San Francisco, including three years on the city's first Building Inspection Commission, she has acquired the understanding to face our city's challenges. If we want to solve homelessness and build a city where homeowners and lower income renters can share alike in our district's beauty, we need to elect Eileen Hansen.

I urge friends and neighbors to honor our legacy of progressive legislation by election Eileen Hansen. As a supervisor, she'll do us proud.

Bob Burnside
 San Francisco

Devil's in the details

According to Terrance Alan of the Late Night Coalition, "Patrick Batt shot us down," regarding their plans for stages on Market Street on Halloween (*Stabbing, bashing mar Castro Halloween*, November 7). The fact of the matter is they withdrew their plans when it became obvious their plans had not been very well thought out and they had no support. What Terrance failed to mention was that as a result of my advocating for the Late Night Coalition with the San Francisco Police Department and Bank of America they were allowed to put up a music stage in front of the BofA at Castro and 18th Street as a compromise to their original plans.

Of course, from reporter Joe Dignan's perspective, "Patrick Batt shot us down" makes better copy than "Patrick Batt helped us out."

Remember, whether planning for Halloween or writing about it, the devil is in the details.

Patrick Batt, President
 Merchants of Upper Market and Castro
 San Francisco

The LGBT center

I dare to say that I am one of the few people living in San Francisco today who has been in all three of the previous community centers: the SIR center on Sixth Street, the Pride center where the performing arts parking garages now stands, and the Pride center at the corner of Fillmore and Hayes. Our new center is more centrally located: near Church and Market and right on the corner of the future Octavia Boulevard.

I have been a volunteer at the center since it opened and have met many remarkable people ranging in age from 23 to 72. We need more of us claiming the center as our own by volunteering, purchasing memberships, and attending classes and workshops. The financial model for the center depends on both space rental to outside groups and membership purchases by the community at large. It does not operate in a vacuum.

We cannot allow this LGBT community center to go under due to lack of interest.

If you haven't visited to just look around, do it

soon; if you haven't become a member, do it now. The religious right is a minor annoyance compared to the quiet apathy of today's queer community. It has not always been this good. This is the golden age for queers, enjoy it together.

Take it from old timer, now is the time to act.

John Cailleau
 San Francisco

Blowin' in the wind

So many of us are feeling despondent and for good reason. The winds of fear are howling across the plains, like those of the "great Dust Bowl" era. The oil pumps are rusting, the small farms are droughted, the parched citizens of this democracy are loading up their SUVs and again heading West.

The promise of prosperity that was once nestled in the green rolling hills populated by ancient redwoods that met the roaring ocean has been over-mined. There's too much mercury in the fish, diminishing gold in the computer chips, clear-cut mountain sides that have silted fresh water streams where the salmon are dying. Steinbeck's characters are returning in droves to find only "fools gold." Job layoffs daily by the hundreds have people roaming the Internet as well as city streets where they can no longer afford to live. All make it harder to find the pot of gold buried beneath the modern pyramid.

Still like the old folk tune states: the answer is blowin' in the wind. Right now the wind of fear howls above our heads battering civil rights urging security for the homeland. Fear is riveting us to conformity. We need to dig deep in ourselves and stand and face the wind. True patriots will find their voices to dissent, to create, new frontiers where working people can be secure in their freedoms. If the answer is blowin' in the wind, then we need to get our kites out, like Ben Franklin, and brave the storm, or drown in the maelstrom of its wake. We, who live in the "golden west" have always been the inventors, now is the time for us to infuse our creative spirit with a commitment and desire to defend our freedoms. Now is not the time to leave the country, to hang our heads in defeat, now is the time to read the Constitution, know what the Bill of Rights guarantees us, exercise our responsibility to work for our rights.

The answer my friend, is blowin' in the wind. The answer is blowin' in the wind.

Le McClellan
 San Francisco

Appreciates review

Bravo to Matthew Kennedy for his excellent review of Laurence Quirk and William Schoell's new biography of Joan Crawford (*Paging the reel Miss Crawford*, October 31). Kennedy correctly focuses on the authors' assessment of Crawford's extraordinary career and on their successful challenge to Christina Crawford's allegations of abuse. *Mommie Dearest* has become a cult classic and no doubt damaged Crawford's posthumous reputation. Yet the star's two other daughters have repeatedly denied Christina's story. Nor have critics mentioned that Christina's brief career as an actress, begun with far greater advantages than her mother had, was not a success. How much of Christina's anger and motivation to vilify her mother was the result of this failure in an area where her mother became one of the most recognizable performers of the 20th century? Additionally, unlike Bette Davis's daughter, who confronted her mother with accusations of abuse while the latter was still alive and able to respond, Christina waited for Joan to die before telling her story.

As Kennedy points out, Crawford was a complex and at times difficult woman. She was not a saint. But it is unlikely that the portrait of her by her daughter is accurate or complete. The money Christina earned from her book and the movie based on it more than compensated her for being disinherited by her mother. As time goes on, her story will be a footnote in any discussion of Joan Crawford's remarkable career.

Gustavo Serina
 San Francisco

Thanks, Lee-Ona!

First, I want to say that there is no other city like ours, and no other community of love and caring like San Francisco. For many precious years, I have been blessed with so many diverse members of this great town on the bay.

The list is ever growing, but I would like to mention one of my mentors of love. We are blessed to have dear Lee-Ona, the owner of the famous Tenderloin saloon, at Turk and Leavenworth streets, who continues to unite with fun and benefits to those in need.

In times of so much tension, there is still love and a safe feeling that we still have the choice.

Five stars to our dear Lee-Ona. Thank you, dear friend, for looking out for all of us who might stray to your famous saloon.

Marvin-Michel LeGrier II, Esq.
 San Francisco

Nancy Pelosi in House leadership driver's seat

by Wayne Friday

Conservative Republicans are reportedly already salivating at the very idea that Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco) is slated to be elected today (Thursday, November 14) to the powerful position of House minority leader, the first woman ever to hold that position.

While Republicans over the years have certainly considered the phrase "San Francisco Democrat" as meaning one of a political stripe far too left for mainstream America, maybe after the results of last week's election — where the national Democratic Party rolled over and said practically nothing to counter all that **George W. Bush** stands for — it is indeed time that someone like Pelosi give the Democrats an alternative and offer the American voters a real choice in political leadership.

Pelosi, currently the House minority whip, steps up to the minority leader position as Representative **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri) steps aside, reportedly thinking of the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination. Gephardt, after watching his minority party lose five House seats in last week's unfortunate midterm election, probably did the wise thing in stepping down. By doing so, he's letting others within the Democratic Party try to establish new leadership and create a new image for the party.

Gephardt's resignation should give Democratic Party leaders an opportunity to figure out just what their party stands for during the upcoming Republican domination of both houses of Congress. To be sure, Pelosi is a "liberal" and a proud one. She freely acknowledges her liberalism, but she is known for much more than that. Pelosi has long campaigned against human rights abuses in China and for Tibet's rights, and was the highest ranking Democrat in either house of Congress to vote last month against authorizing Bush to take military action against Iraq, a position many other Democratic congressional members agreed with but didn't have the political courage to follow suit.

In assessing last week's defeat for her party, Pelosi was absolutely correct when she said that the Democrats had failed to distinguish themselves from the opposition Republican Party. If there is no alternative, voters usually stay with the status quo; in this recent election, that meant giving Bush most of the Republican candidates for which he campaigned.

Democrats made numerous mistakes in this election. They allowed the GOP to pretend to be Democrats by co-opting the rhetorical center, and while Democrats tried to make the failed Bush economic policy an issue, they didn't offer their own coherent strategy.

Meanwhile, Bush was very articulate at defining his narrow list of issues like homeland security

and the imminent war against Iraq to voters as he spent the past three weeks of the campaign crisscrossing the country urging voters to, in effect, rally 'round the flag. Certainly, the president's personal popularity (go figure) helped in closely contested races, but he would be mistaken to read too much into his party's November 5 electoral success. After all 2004 is two years away, and after watching the likely number of body bags coming home from Iraq for the next couple of years, and after watching 401Ks continue to plummet, maybe future Democratic candidates will make it clear why they felt, but failed to

articulate, that long-term tax cuts for the nation's wealthiest were a bad idea.

The Democratic Party now has two years to get its message out. Bush's current popularity will surely plummet after a few months of war against

Iraq, and Democrats can then show voters that it is indeed the Democratic Party that, despite not having the courage in the past election to point it out, cares about things like economic issues, women's rights, the environment, and Social Security.

This, of course, does require new leadership for the party of **Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Clinton**. Perhaps, despite all the money he raised, Democratic National Committee chair **Terry McAuliffe** should look elsewhere for work.

Despite the claims of top Republicans within the White House, last week's election does not mean the country is moving to the right politically. Democrats simply have to offer voters a clear choice from the view and policies of **George W. Bush, Karl Rove, and Dick Cheney**. The country, after last Tuesday's election, still continues to be split almost exactly down the middle, and while close wins are obviously preferable to narrow losses, even those states where Republicans gained seats in the House and Senate were lost by a slim margin by the Democrats. As the *New York Times* editorially pointed out this week, "Mr. Bush has a habit of interpreting even the tiniest margins of victory as mandates for sweeping change." Therein lies the real danger of last week's election results. Look for the newly-powered Bush White House to appoint a slew of right-wing federal judges that will then be in power for the next three or four decades, to say nothing or promptly opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling.

The Democratic Party must offer the American voters an alternative and distinguish themselves from this Bush ideology in elections to come, and San Francisco's Nancy Pelosi becoming the new Democratic House minority leader is a step in the right direction. Good luck and all the best wishes, Ms. Pelosi.

Election review

If Democrat **Steve Westly** can hold onto his lead for state controller through the final count, it would mean the first time that

California Democrats have held every elected statewide constitutional office in more than 50 years. It also marks the first time in decades that no woman of either party holds a statewide office.

Political bragging rights in being the politician with the single highest vote percentage in the city last Tuesday? That would be Assemblyman-elect **Mark Leno**, who took nearly 82 percent of the votes in his 13th District race.

Green Party gubernatorial candidate **Peter Camejo** received more votes in San Francisco than did **Bill Simon**, the Republican nominee.

For the money she reportedly spent, **Lynne Newhouse Segal** probably shouldn't have even bothered in her dismal race against District 2 supere **Gavin Newsom**.

Bevan Duffy has already racked up two important endorsements in his District 8 runoff race. Duffy last week won the endorsement of outgoing Supere **Mark Leno** as well as the San Francisco Democratic Party.

The passage of Proposition H was good news for the well-deserved city's cops and firefighters.

Except for the expected defeat of a gay marriage plan in Nevada, last week's elections nationally brought good news for gay and lesbian activists and candidates. **David Cicilline**, a 41-year-old gay attorney, won a landslide victory to become the new Democratic mayor of Providence, Rhode Island, making that capital city the largest city (pop. 174,000) in the nation to have an openly gay mayor. Some in Rhode Island are already looking at Cicilline as a future statewide candidate.

Voters in Maine, Michigan, and Washington state also turned back proposals that would have taken gay rights provisions from local anti-discrimination ordinances.

The House of Representatives' three openly gay members were easily re-elected and several other gay and lesbian candidates won election in numerous states, including, I'm told, the brother of **Rosie O'Donnell**, who reportedly won a state Assembly seat representing Manhattan.

California Democrats will still control the state Assembly despite losing two seats to Republicans on November 5; Democrats will hold the Assembly 48-32 while controlling the state Senate by the same 26-14 majority. Despite losing two Assembly seats to the GOP, Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) declared, "The majority in the Assembly is still firmly in the hands of the Democrats."

Probably the most interesting change under the capitol dome, however, had to do with sexual orientation — not political persuasion. Democrat **Mark Leno**, a San Francisco supervisor, and Democrat **John Laird**, formerly the mayor of Santa Cruz, easily won Assembly seats and become the first openly gay men in the Statehouse. They join lesbians **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles) and **Christine Kehoe** (D-San Diego), both re-elected to the lower house and state Senator **Sheila Kuehl** (D-Santa Monica).

Nationally, women won some important races too. In Arizona,

next page ►

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Pronoun trouble

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Some things just never seem to go away.

One of my earliest columns in this paper was on the issue of pronouns. I spoke about the old standbys — him and her — as well as some of the non-gendered pronouns that are bounced around from time to time. Good things like ze, s/he, and hir.

Now, nearly two years later, I find myself having to go right back into discussing pronouns. It's almost as long-lasting a topic in transgender circles as the fight over the right to use a bathroom that matches one's presentation — but don't get me started on that one again.

The Gwen Araujo murder has garnered a lot of media coverage. In fact, since her body was discovered in a shallow grave in Placerville the middle of last month, hardly a day has gone by without at least one article cropping up in the local media.

This is where the pronoun issue comes in.

You see, Gwen Araujo identified as a woman. She took the name Gwen as her own, borrowing it from singer Gwen Stefani. Some also knew her as Lida, or even Wendy. All of these were different from the name with which she was given at birth.

She would correct people regarding her name, reminding a close friend to use "Gwen" over her birth name. She spoke of having genital reassignment surgery, and — unlike some reports I've read — had lived largely in the female role for about a year and a half.

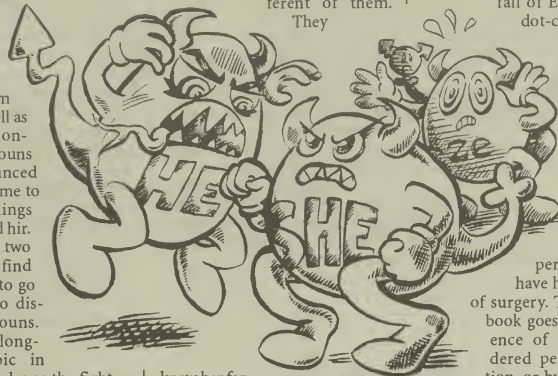
You would have a hard time knowing this from reading the likes of the *San Francisco Chronicle* or *San Jose Mercury News*, let alone the television and radio reports. There, Gwen Araujo was a boy who "occasionally dressed as a woman," and is again labeled with her birth name.

Don't get me wrong here: I am sure there are some people who did perceive Gwen that way. People who knew Gwen for most if not all of her life will often see what they wish to see. I'm sure that if you asked my friends and family about me, you may hear

much the same.

I'm not so much worried about the words of those who knew Gwen in this case. They are welcome to their own views and perceptions, and no one can really impose anything different of them.

They



Christine Smith

knew her far

better than either the local media or myself. What does concern me, however, is that the media cannot seem to take a moment to piece together the facts of Gwen Araujo's life, and present a more accurate picture of her.



Transmissions

The issue actually goes beyond Gwen Araujo. Other recent coverage has spoken of some living transgendered people, and has further mangled the pronoun issue. A recent piece in the *Chronicle* labeled a female to male as "she" or "her" six times in two paragraphs. Ironical, as the paragraphs were talking about his preference to be referred to by male pronouns.

The *Chronicle* has since done a complete profile on this FTM — and followed-up with an opinion piece, touting what a good thing they were doing by using the preferred pronouns. Good for them, but why didn't they just get it right the first time?

The *Chronicle* is, as I mentioned, not the only one with issues over pronouns. I recently spoke to a reporter with the *Mercury News*, specifically over why their paper was opting for presenting Gwen Araujo solely through the use of male pronouns and such. Their reason? The *Associated Press Stylebook*.

I almost bought it, too, except that I had to tell the reporter where in the stylebook they could find the information. You see, she had not actually looked it up.

It gets worse. After she read the section, we discovered that her stylebook was out of date. The *Associated Press* updated its definition — for the first time in decades

— in 2000, but the paper was still using the old language. In fact, the book this reporter was reading from was printed in 1996 — I can only imagine what else might be outdated in a stylebook printed before Dubya, the rise and fall of Enron, and the dot-com boom.

For the record, the old stylebook instructed writers and editors to only apply a preferred pronoun to a transgendered

person after they have had some form of surgery. The new stylebook goes by the preference of the transgendered person in question, or by appearance if the preference cannot be determined.

The *Chronicle* has made the same argument as the *Mercury News*, and has also based its reasoning on an antiquated *AP Stylebook*. Because of this, I am trying to arrange with a number of local transgender activists a fundraising drive to buy what are obviously underfunded news organizations some new stylebooks, in the hope of embarrassing them into change.

The issue is bigger than the age of one's stylebook, however. This is the San Francisco Bay Area, and there has been a lot of media attention on transgender issues in our local press. Countless articles have rolled off the press since the 1994 transgender anti-discrimination guidelines rolled out of the city government. Certainly sometime between then and now, someone in the local media could have taken the time to craft policies that are in keeping with the progressive nature of this area, couldn't they?

But perhaps it is something different at work. Maybe it isn't that they cannot change, but that they do not want to. Perhaps they are afraid of new ideas, and want to stick with that with which they are comfortable.

If that is the case, then we will be back to discussing pronouns here again in the future — and neither you nor I want that to happen. ▼

Gwen Smith notes that you can write to her if you want to help out on the *AP Stylebook* fundraiser. She can be found on the *Web in Gay.com's* "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

Janet Napolitano, a 44-year-old single attorney and a Democrat, took the Statehouse away from the GOP. A Republican woman became governor in heavily-Democratic Hawaii, a Democratic woman became the new governor of heavily-Republican Kansas, and best of all, in Michigan, my home state, Democrat Jennifer Granholm took the governor's job away from years of Republican incumbency.

In California, Representative Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat

representing the state's 46th Congressional District, will be joined by her Democratic sister, Representative-elect Linda Sanchez from a new district in Orange and Los Angeles counties, making them the House of Representatives' first-ever sister act.

Back in San Francisco, Mabel Teng's lopsided victory over Assessor Doris Ward wasn't even close; neither was the defeat for Proposition D (public power), although with the passage of Proposition J the Board of Supervisors can expect a healthy, and well-deserved pay raise.

And, no, I can hardly wait either, but Bill Simon is reportedly

already threatening to run for statewide office again; friends of the millionaire Simon say he is thinking of going after Senator Barbara Boxer's (D-California) job in 2004 (Simon and how many other Republicans?).

In Marin, popular Democratic Assemblyman Joe Nation ran up a big re-election win last week, making him an early bet to run for John Burton's term-out state Senate seat in 2004.

And while there can be no doubt that Republicans nationally had a good day on November 5, there are apparently still three seats in doubt. In Colorado's 7th

page 12 ►

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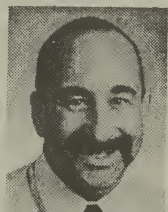
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The sky is not falling

by Dale Carpenter

Is the Democrats' disaster also a disaster for gays? It's not likely, but you wouldn't know that from what gay organizations and pundits are telling us.

The Human Rights Campaign said the GOP victory creates "rocky political terrain" and vaguely hinted that "obstacles may emerge from a more conservative leadership."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force similarly warned that gays are "in jeopardy of seeing more anti-GLBT legislation introduced."

Ann Rostow, one of the most interesting and certainly one of the best writers among gay news analysts today (she's also a friend of mine), wrote what everybody on the gay left was thinking but most were too politic to say. In her weekly "News With A View" column, under the unobtrusive title "Disaster," she called the election "a fucking train wreck" and predicted "there's no group that's going to suffer any more than we will."

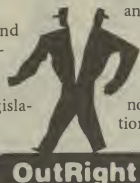
Rocky terrain? Gays in jeopardy? A fucking train wreck?

We've been here before. When the GOP took control of Congress in 1994, we were treated to doom-and-gloom scenarios from gay Democrats unaccustomed to finding their party in the minority.

When Bush won the presidency, we were told he would never hire an openly gay person to a post in his administration and would repeal the executive order protecting gay federal employees from job discrimination. On its Web site, NGLTF even featured a mock "count" of Bush's openly gay appointees starting with "0," which is where NGLTF imagined the count would stay. After a dozen or so openly gay Bush appointees, including an ambassador, the NGLTF counter is gone. The executive order is still there.

Every time the Republicans win an election, the Chicken Littles come out to cluck. What demons with pitchforks await us this time? What travails have they devised to make our lives but a vale of tears? What tyranny do we whiff in this new ill breeze?

It's first important to note what this election was and was not about. The main issues were post-9/11 domestic security, a possible war with Iraq, the Bush tax cut, and a few other things having to do with Social Security and Medicare. On these matters most voters appear quite sensibly to have trusted the Republicans more than they trusted the Democrats. It didn't hurt that a popular Republican president with an outstanding foreign policy record campaigned hard for his party's candidates.



OutRight

Note carefully what is not on that list of 2002 election issues. Republicans did not run on preserving traditional moral values, much less on explicitly anti-gay pledges. They did not ask for, and did not receive, a mandate to subjugate gays.

The mandate Republicans did get is a hair-thin one: a difference of just 44,000 votes in three states would have allowed the Democrats to keep the Senate. The new majority can be lost as easily as it was won and Republicans know it. They have marked well the lesson of 1994: don't overplay your hand.

Combine that with the fact that three of the Senate's most inveterate anti-gay social conservatives — Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina), Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina), and Bob Smith (R-New Hampshire) — have been replaced by more moderate Republicans and my hunch is the GOP will move very cautiously on a range of issues, all of which have nothing to do directly with homosexuality.

So just what are the doomsayers predicting? HRC and NGLTF are short on specifics, but Rostow is characteristically forthcoming.

In the department of good-things-that-would've-happened-but-won't-now-that-the-neanderthals-are-in-charge, we have the long-suffering Employment Non-Discrimination Act (a proposed federal law protecting gays from job discrimination) and a federal hate crimes bill. "Goodbye ENDA and so long Hate Crime Bill," writes Rostow.

It's probably true that we won't see either of these measures pass a GOP-dominated Congress in the

next two years, but how likely were they to pass a Democratic Senate? In the two years Democrats controlled the presidency and both houses of Congress (1992-94), they failed even to consider, much less adopt, a gay civil rights bill. In the year-and-a-half the Democrats most recently controlled the Senate, they once again failed even to consider either of these measures.

I know, I know. The Democrats would have brought them up for votes if only they'd kept their precious majority. They're always promising to do things for us once we've again demonstrated our devotion to them in the next election.

How do we say "Goodbye" to ENDA or a hate crimes law when the Democrats never let us say "Hello"?

In the department of bad-things-that-will-happen-now-that-the-neanderthals-are-in-charge, Rostow says we face "a radical version of the faith-based social services bill" and a bunch of cloven-hoofed federal judicial nominees.

On the faith-based initiatives plan, endorsed by both Al Gore and Bush in the 2000 election, a proposal to exempt federally funded religious institutions from civil rights laws protecting gays and other groups has been shelved. There's been no effort to revive the exemption. We'll see what happens, but I doubt the Republicans will risk offending the country's burgeoning minority population for little or no political gain.

On the judicial nominees, a perennial cause for lefty teeth-gnashing, a couple of them may be objectionable to some people on non-gay grounds (like abortion) but there's no credible evidence Bush's nominees have anti-gay agendas. Overwhelmingly, the nominees are supremely qualified moderate conservatives.

There are good reasons why the gay left might oppose the GOP's tenuous ascendancy — from environmental to foreign policy Republicans stand for everything they hate. But they can't scare us again with anti-gay nightmares. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

New youth writing workshop begins tonight

by Zak Szymanski

Tonight (Thursday, November 14) marks the beginning of a new youth writing class to be offered by the Harvey Milk Institute. Fiction writer Chad Lange will teach "On the Page & On the Stage," which will focus on writing

from several disciplines and will include in-class writing exercises, guest speakers, and an overall view of a writer's life. Students will also have the opportunity to read their work at several public performances.

Free of charge and open to LGBTQI youth 23 years old and under, the class runs six Thurs-

days, including tonight and November 21; December 5, 12, and 19; and January 9. Class is from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and is held at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street. To register, contact HMI at www.harveymilk.org or call (415) 865-5633. Those interested should register immediately, as space fills up quickly. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

Distractions, Republican Bob Beauprez led Democrat Mike Feely by about 400 votes out of more than 161,000 cast; county clerks in the Colorado district wrestled with several thousand uncounted provisional ballots cast under a new law that allows people who think they are qualified to vote; they still have a week to verify the results in that race. In New York's 1st District, the

race between GOP Representative Felix Grucci and Democrat Tim Bishop hinged on about 6,000 absentee ballots at press time; Bishop is leading by about 2,500 votes out of nearly 160,000 cast. And finally, a runoff will be held December 7 to decide an open seat in Louisiana's 5th District; neither Democrat Rodney Alexander nor Republican Lee Fletcher got the required majority. Louisiana's Democratic U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and Republican challenger Suzanne Terrell also have a runoff on that

date because neither got more than 50 percent.

The "Quote of the Week" comes from Mayor Willie Brown (on the city's controversial district attorney, who recently accused City Hall of being "pervasively" corrupt.) Mayor Brown: "Terence Hallinan is not fit for public office; he's mentally unstable."

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political item? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

FACIAL WASTING

People always said I had nice eyes and a great smile. Now I look more like a ghost. Sometimes I look in the mirror and don't even recognize myself.

Don't get me wrong, I'm really glad to be alive, but

HIV IS NO PICNIC

I don't care how good the sex is or how hot the guy is, nothing is worth what I'm going through now.

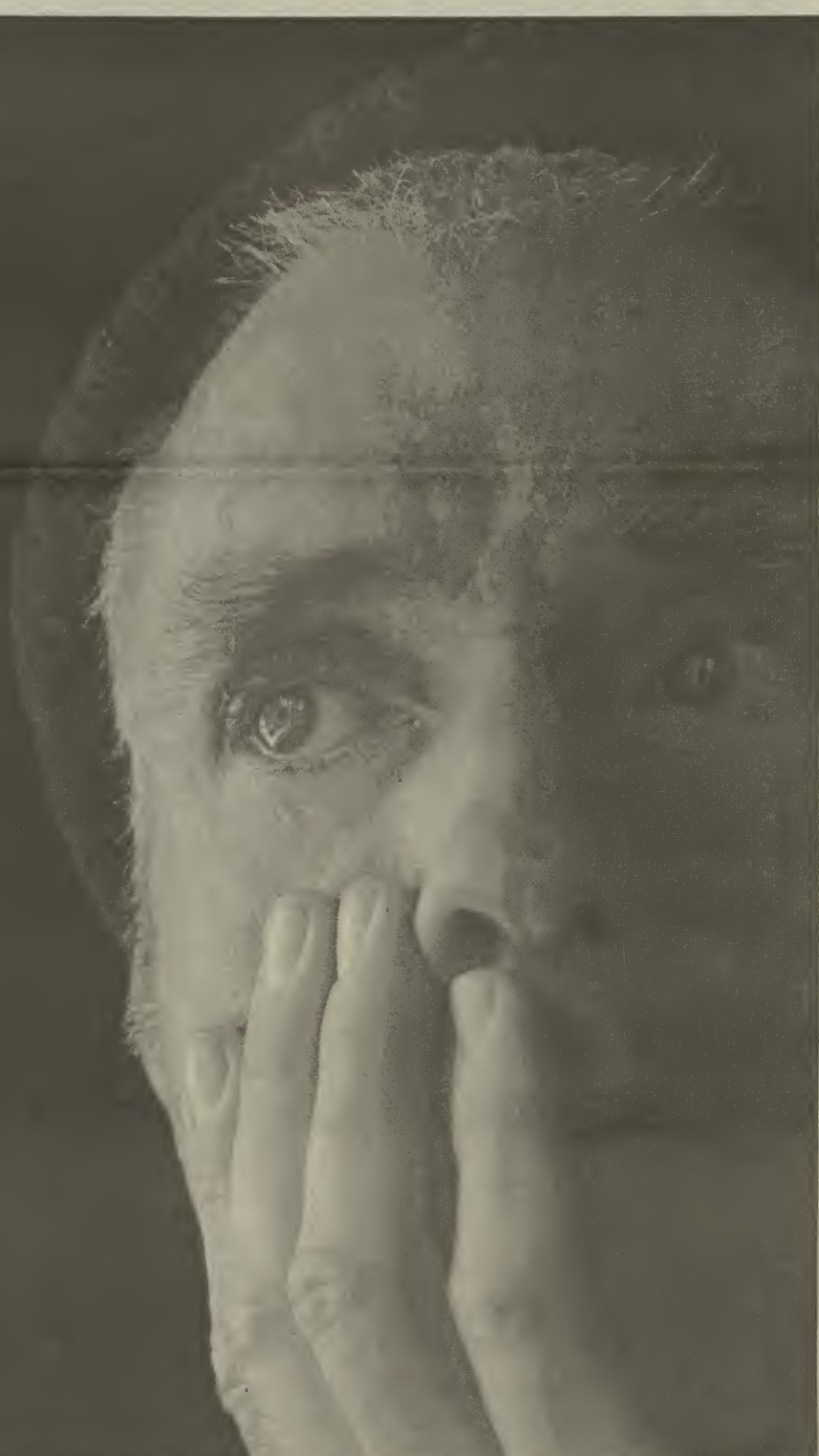
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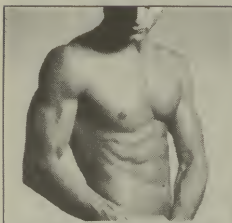


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AEF turns 20

◀ page 1

should go next. About 10 people attended this meeting in Booth's living room. The San Francisco AIDS Fund was established, with rules "made up as we went along," according to Booth, who is expected to attend the AEF gala. Grants were determined based on how much money was available, and how much people needed. About 50 clients applied for assistance, and nonprofit status was sought. And the first fundraiser was a beer bust at Chaps bar on 11th Street.

"We raised about \$50," recalled Booth, "and we were thrilled."

The ties that bind

Another distinction that sets AEF apart from other AIDS organizations is its inseparable bond to the leather community. The group's first major fundraiser was Alan Selby's San Francisco Leather Daddy Contest, also at Chaps, in 1982. Selby helped to organize additional leather title contests and events to benefit AEF, creating not just a leather-supported organization, but an AEF-fostered leather community.

"AEF was started by members of the leather community, and there has never been any time in the history of AEF where there has not been at least one leather presence on the board of directors," Selby told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Selby, now 74 and 21 years into working with AEF, is "very proud" to have started several of the events that now sustain AEF. In turn, he said, the local leather community has grown and benefited as well.

"AEF and the leather community both depend on each other," said Selby. "We've produced leaders of the leather community through AEF fundraisers."

The AEF memories cherished by Peter Fiske, a board member since 1998, and past AEF president, could never be separated from the local leather community. "I met the love of my life at an AEF benefit in 1983, the first Leather Daddy Boy contest at the Eagle," noted Fiske. "So AEF has been great to me. We are a family, all the volunteers and the clients and everyone has always impressed me immensely with their great caring for each other."

Mike Smith, AEF's first paid executive director, who took office last month, told the *B.A.R.* that AEF is the beneficiary of several leather title contests, including San Francisco Leather Daddy, and Leather Daddy's Boy, both held at the Eagle each year.

There is also the annual "Bare Chest Calendar," the annual "Basket Contest" at the Edge; the efforts of leather matriarch Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, particularly for the new BCEF; and the penny-jar campaign; all big fundraisers that have succeeded thanks to the hard work of the leather community.

Not to be ignored is the no-



KRON-TV's Jan Wahl posed with the Bare Chest Calendar men in 1999.

table drag presence in AEF's history as well; Donna Sachet, for instance, has hosted "Songs of the Season" for the past 10 years, raising more than \$50,000 for AEF.

"I have never worked with or raised money for an organization with more heart, more energy, or of more direct benefit for those in emergency need," said Sachet. "They make volunteer work a pleasure."

But Smith, 42, said part of his job as executive director is to find some way to relieve the community of bearing responsibility for AEF's financial soundness, and so one of his goals, he said, is to seek out more foundations and corporations for funding.

"It's the next natural phase in this organization," said Smith. "I think we have an obligation to the folks in the community so they don't feel like they have to raise every nickel for us."

Aware, however, of how big sponsorship can sometimes alienate more grassroots-based involvement, Smith promised that additional resources would not corrupt AEF's style or mission.

"We won't forget where our heart is; we love the support we get, especially from the leather community," said Smith.

"Even if we look to other funding sources, we're never going to forget where we came from."

Immaculate conception

"I really trust AEF; its board has always been strong and responsible, and its clientele is always the poorest of the poor in one of the most expensive cities in America," said community activist Gary Virginia, a former AEF client. "So I feel like if ever there were an organization that should be funded by corporations and the community alike, it's AEF. Their overhead has always been consistent, they're still grassroots and largely volunteer-run, their cause is so pure, and their books are so clean that going after other funding sources doesn't concern me."

The *B.A.R.* caught Virginia in the midst of a phenomenon experienced by AEF devotees; although on vacation in Hawaii, and no longer in need of AEF services himself, Virginia was busy at work on a fundraising project to benefit AEF and San Francisco's Positive Resource Center. Dreamed up by himself and producer Johnny Hedges, the project is a holiday music CD (available at www.ecarols.com) that will donate a portion of its sales to

AEF and PRC.

"It's just something we decided to do," said Virginia from his cell phone as he designed an advertisement for the project.

In 1995, Virginia, now 42, found himself unable to work full-time. Although he applied for disability, he had to wait several months for both his Social Security and private insurance to kick in, during which he exhausted his savings and faced having to give up his apartment and leave the city that is home to his health and support system.

AEF's emergency grant to help him pay his rent, he said, was the single most important factor in maintaining his health during that crucial period.

"Not having to move, or just knowing you can pay your phone bill, electricity, or prescriptions takes a lot of stress off someone, and stress is the worst thing for your health," said Virginia. "For people recently going on disability it's a critical time. Your whole life is turned upside down, and getting a grant like that really does help you a lot."

Virginia, like many AEF clients, is now a dedicated volunteer who has seen the organization maintain its purity despite its many changes. The work of these volunteers will be invaluable as the organization now faces up to 300 more clients — and \$400,000 more in expenses — than budgeted. And so will Wednesday's gala, which the board has tried to make accessible to everyone by offering two different ticket prices: \$125 includes an hors d'oeuvre and cocktail reception, entertainment, and dessert; and \$50 will allow guests to see the show and enjoy dessert.

Wednesday's gala begins with the cocktail reception at 6 p.m., which is expected to draw up to 500 people. Over 20 tasting stations will feature cocktails, wine, and gourmet food from Bay Area restaurants and premier liquor companies. A silent auction will take place in the Green Room. AEF's anniversary review and tribute show will follow at 8 p.m. in the Herbst Theatre, where an additional 300 attendees are expected. In addition to McNight and Moreno, several celebrities and performers involved with AEF will pay tribute to volunteers, sponsors, and board members. The dessert reception follows in the Veteran's Lobby.

To purchase tickets to the AEF 20th anniversary gala, call (415) 551-5190. ▼

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Safety Information

KALETRA should not be taken if you have had an allergic reaction to KALETRA or any of its ingredients.

KALETRA must not be taken with certain drugs due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening side effects. Discuss all medicines, including those without a prescription and herbal preparations, you are taking or plan to take with your doctor or pharmacist.

Pancreatitis and liver problems, which may cause death, have been

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reported in patients receiving KALETRA. Tell your doctor if you have or have had liver disease such as hepatitis. Your doctor may want to monitor your liver function. In patients taking protease inhibitors, increased bleeding (in patients with hemophilia) and diabetes/high blood sugar have occurred. Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. Some patients receiving KALETRA have had large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol.

The most commonly reported side effects of moderate or severe intensity are: abnormal bowel movements, diarrhea, feeling weak or tired, headache, and nausea. Children most often reported diarrhea, rash, taste aversion, and vomiting.

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol.

Please see adjacent page for Patient Information.

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02D-036-3545-1

May 2002

Printed in USA

KALETRA™ (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules (lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

Patient Information

KALETRA™ (kuh-LEE-tra)

Generic Name: lopinavir/ritonavir
(lop-IN-uh-veer/rit-ON-uh-veer)

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking KALETRA. Also, read it each time you get your KALETRA prescription refilled, in case something has changed. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor when you start this medicine and at check ups. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about KALETRA.

What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

KALETRA blocks HIV protease, a chemical which is needed for HIV to multiply. KALETRA reduces the amount of HIV in your blood and increases the number of T cells. Reducing the amount of HIV in the blood reduces the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does KALETRA cure HIV or AIDS?

KALETRA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of KALETRA are not known at this time. People taking KALETRA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections.

Does KALETRA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

KALETRA does not reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Continue to practice safe sex and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take KALETRA?

- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
- You must take KALETRA every day exactly as your doctor prescribed it. The dose of KALETRA may be different for you than for other patients. Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.
- Dosing in adults (including children 12 years of age and older): The usual dose for adults is 3 capsules (400/100 mg) or 5.0 mL of the oral solution twice a day (morning and night), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines.
- Dosing in children from 6 months to 12 years of age: Children from 6 months to 12 years of age can also take KALETRA. The child's doctor will decide the right dose based on the child's weight.
- Take KALETRA with food to help it work better.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
- When your KALETRA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to KALETRA and become harder to treat.
- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your

local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylegonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methergine, and others
 - Halcion® (triazolam)
 - Hismanal® (astemizole)
 - Orap® (pimozide)
 - Propulsid® (cisapride)
 - Rythmo® (propafenone)
 - Seldane® (terfenadine)
 - Tambocor™ (flecainide)
 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible, that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.
- A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
 These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

- If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:** Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new

or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.
- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.
- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.
- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.
- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.
- If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.
- If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.
- If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.
- If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.
- Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw away medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Nancy Pelosi likely to become Democratic leader in Congress

by Bob Roehr

Following the Republican Party's surprising takeover of Congress as a result of last week's midterm elections, House Minority Leader Richard G. Gephardt (D-Missouri) announced on November 7 that he would not seek another term at that post. Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) is favored to step up from her current position as whip when the Democratic caucus elects its leadership

on November 14.

Gephardt's decision in part reflects a failure of the Democrats to regain a majority in the House. It will leave him with both the time and freedom to again pursue the Democratic nomination for president in 2004.

Pelosi, 62, has represented San Francisco in Congress for 15 years. She has been a leader in Congress on gay and AIDS issues. In February she was elected whip, the number two leadership slot, defeating fellow liberal Representative Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland).

Flag-lowering

◀ page 2

hostility in the future, the merchant group, which carries the insurance policy to cover the flag, has decided it is time to set protocol of when the flag should be lowered. At the November 7 MUMC meeting, Batt said he was tired of handling irate phone calls about the issue.

"When it has come up during the last two to three months, it is extremely vexing for me to determine when do we lower the flag to half-mast," said Batt, owner of Mercury Mail Order and Auto-Erotica. "I never thought anybody would want it flown at half-mast. I didn't think about it."

Without any policy in place, Batt has shouldered the responsibility of when to agree to lower the flag. At times, the individuals making the request have become angry if Batt declines to lower the flag.

"I was overwhelmed with these requests," he said. "I think once we establish a protocol I won't be called names and people won't be screaming bloody murder."

It is not just the people calling for the flag to be lowered who have become upset over the issue. Each time the flag is flown at half-mast, Batt said other members of the community will call to express their anger at seeing the flag lowered. He said many residents will also call because they are confused as to why the flag is not raised to

its full height.

Dahn Van Laar, MUMC's publicity and special events officer, said he would prefer never to see the flag lowered.

"It is a celebration," he said. "If we were to lower it for someone who dies it is going to be lowered every day."

While he suggested the flag be lowered only one day a year as a way to remember those who have died, other MUMC members said there may be times when lowering the flag is appropriate.

Public safety officer Jane Warner pointed to the terrorist attacks of 9/11 as one such incident where the flag should be lowered.

"We are Americans, we want to be a part," of the country and mourn with the rest of the nation, she said.

Other members suggested the flag be lowered on World AIDS Day or that the same rules for lowering the American flag be applied to lowering the rainbow flag. Another suggestion was to fly the flag at half-mast on the day of a memorial service for a prominent member of the community or when an incident prompts national attention.

"We simply need to establish something," said Batt.

MUMC's board met Wednesday night after the *Bay Area Reporter's* deadline to discuss the idea of developing a protocol for lowering the flag, as well as how to present such a plan to the community. ▼

Democratic Representative Martin Frost, a moderate from Texas, initially tested the waters with his own candidacy for minority leader. He lasted little more than a day before withdrawing, throwing his support to Pelosi.

Pelosi announced at a November 8 news conference that she had commitments from at least 105 of the 203 members of the Democratic House members.

"The race is over," she said.

Frost's departure cleared the way for Representative Harold Ford Jr. (D-Tennessee) to announce his candidacy late on November 8.

"Democrats have to offer something more than 'no, no, no,'" said the centrist Ford. He was first elected to Congress at the age of 26, and today at 32 remains one of the younger members of that body and the first African American to seek to lead the Democrats.

Both aspirants are second-generation politicians with strong ties to the Washington elite.

Pelosi's father was a congressman for a decade, then mayor of Baltimore for a dozen years while she was growing up. Her brother later was elected mayor of Baltimore. She graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., which was established as a finishing school for Catholic girls.

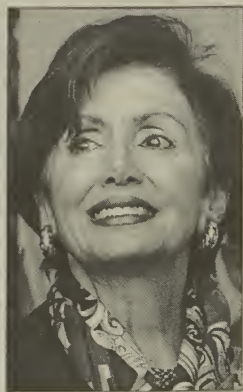
Ford's father, Harold Ford Sr., was elected to Congress from Memphis in 1974 and the young-

ster spent most of his time in Washington. He attended the tony St. Albans prep school on the grounds of the Episcopal National Cathedral, then went on to the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan Law School. He took over his father's seat when the elder Ford decided not to seek re-election.

"Ordinarily one would probably not make this race, but two days ago changed a lot for this party," said Ford last week. "We suffered a big setback" in the recent congressional elections. "I will bring fresh ideas and a new brand of leadership to the House," he said. "As Leader, I will bring together the progressive, moderate, and conservative wings of our party."

Pelosi played the role of the front-runner who clearly holds the edge. She dismissed the idea that she was too liberal. "I think they chose me as a person who can lead the caucus to victory, as a person who can build coalitions among the various sectors of our caucus."

Ford is not even assured the vote of the entire Congressional Black Caucus in the secret balloting. As Michigan Representative John Conyers Jr. said of Ford's vote in favor of the resolution on Iraq, "I don't think anybody is going to become the next minority leader of the Democrats that wants to go along with Bush on the war." ▼



Representative Nancy Pelosi

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The Urban Men's Health Study

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Your responses will provide local and national health organizations with important information necessary for addressing the health needs of gay and bisexual men throughout the country.

Conducted by: Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
University of California, San Francisco

CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Military recruiters given information on high school students

by David Ryan Alexander

Editor's note: Part 1 in a 2-part series about the effects of the No Child Left Behind Act on the LGBT community.

As part of President Bush's education bill, the Leave No Child Behind Act, military recruiters are now given contact information of high school students across the country. This overrides the existing policies of sexual orientation non-discrimination at both the San Francisco and Portland Unified School Districts, that up to this point had restricted recruiter access due to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

The education amendment states that if military recruiters are not provided the information then all federal funds will be withheld. According to San Francisco Board of Education President Jill Wynns, at SFUSD, that would amount to about \$50 million every year, or 10 percent of the district's total budget.

Through the federal act, parents and students are given an opportunity to opt-out from receiving mail or phone calls from military recruiters, but it is the principal's responsibility to make parents and students aware that they have the option of withholding the information, which according to Wynns, does not always happen.

At SFUSD, an effort was made to notify parents by mail that they could choose to opt-out of the recruiting. "The problem is," said Wynns, "many parents are too busy or don't speak English, and many times the letters are simply lost."

She went on to say that "the right-wing regarded our policies of limiting military access as anti-American, but their efforts are specifically aimed at the progressive movements, such as our non-discrimination policy, that have been made in recent years. These aren't general principles. This is payback."

Low Frederick, a member of the Portland Board of Education, said that after DADT, it became a concern that equal access would not be given to all students, so PUSD created its non-discrimina-

tion policy. The military was then heavily restricted in its abilities to recruit students and contact information was no longer provided. Frederick said, however, that the military has still been able to retrieve the information from somewhere and has continued to contact students.

In addition to the military's discriminatory practices, the Portland board also restricted its recruitment abilities at the request of many principals who complained about the military's highly aggressive recruitment tactics.

According to Karla Wenzel, the board of education chairwoman, "they would pressure students to sign contracts and commitments without consulting their parents, and would roam the halls and pull students from classes as they pleased."

In Portland, school officials have decided to create an "opt-in" box on registration forms, so that when students are registering for classes they can request if recruitment information be sent to them or not.

The initiative originally began

as part of the 2001 Defense Authorization bill. Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-Arkansas) added a provision in the bill that allowed military recruiters access to student information, but offered school districts an opportunity to decline providing the information.

Hutchinson, a member of the Senate Education Committee, then took it a step further and made it an amendment in Bush's education bill. In the current version parents or students must now decline having their information being provided, after being notified by the principal.

Mary Kate Cullen, public policy director for Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, noted, "It's ironic that this is a Republican-controlled bill. Normal Republican public policy is always about greater local control, yet this legislation is mandated with 100 percent federal control with no local control included."

In providing his reasoning behind the legislation, Hutchinson stated, "It's challenging to maintain an all-volunteer force. It's critical that we encourage bright

and talented young people to consider a career in the military."

A representative from the Department of Education, Susan Aspey, agreed with Hutchinson.

"It is important to inform students of all the educational options, and this amendment is simply making that information more available," Aspey said.

According to the military, in 1999 there were 600 schools that banned military recruiting of all kinds, and more than 4,000 schools refused to share directory information such as phone numbers and addresses. The House Armed Services Committee stated that for military recruiters, the inability to obtain contact information is the "single biggest obstacle to carrying out their recruiting mission."

The military spends more than \$2 billion on recruiting every year. ▼

Part 2 will discuss an amendment of the act that forces schools to allow the Boy Scouts of America to use school facilities.

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TG teen murder

◀ page 1

event to commemorate the life of Araujo, 17, whose body was found in a shallow grave in El Dorado County in mid-October.

"And if you don't understand someone like Eddie-Gwen, take the time to get to know them — her-him, and give them a chance," Guerrero said. "Because their lives are a lot harder than our lives, a lot harder. His whole life he suffered. Trust me, I know. I saw it in his eyes. No matter how many hugs, and how many kisses, and how many outfits and makeup I bought him, you know, I couldn't cover that pain."

Newark Mayor Dave Smith also spoke at the vigil. He called on the group to "gather our strength as a community to support each other — to make sure this never happens again."

He was heckled by the crowd when he persisted in calling Araujo "Eddie" during his remarks. "Gwen!" shouted the crowd twice. Araujo had chosen the name "Gwen" and frequently told friends to call her that.

Smith did not use the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered in his remarks. He chose, instead, to speak of Newark as a "city that celebrates its diversity."

"I was glad the mayor showed up," said East Bay Pride's King. "It's a bit of a timid first step, but it was a step in the right direction."

PFLAG's Clifford was more critical. "It was political pabulum. It's nice as far as it goes, but it doesn't mean much until they're able to utter the words gay, lesbian, or transgendered," he said.

Smith did not return a call from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment.

Vigil before play

The vigil preceded the opening night of Newark Memorial High School's production of *The Laramie Project*, a play about the murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard. The



Hundreds of supporters brave the rain at last Friday's vigil in Newark.

play had been in the works prior to Araujo's murder.

The production also provoked controversy. Newark Superintendent of Schools Ken Sherer was quoted in the *Fremont-Newark Argus* newspaper as saying that if it were up to him, the play would not have been chosen.

"I think we have to take a look at how plays are selected," Sherer told a group of Baptist ministers after Araujo's murder, reporter Rob Kuznia wrote.

Sherer now denies making the remark, but Kuznia said he stands by his story.

The students and drama teacher Barbara Williams reworked the ending of the play to make reference to Araujo, projecting butterflies on the backdrop. "Gwen loved butterflies," said a friend.

At the finale, the cast then walked quietly downstage, one by one. As the cast assembled in a line, each made a short statement. "Every ten minutes a hate crime happens in America," said one.

"Start a gay support group at your high school," said another.

The gay-straight alliance at Newark Memorial High School, called GLAS, was disbanded two years ago, according to ex-high school employee Sam Montenegro. According to Montenegro the year prior to its disbanding, the al-

liance had six members out of a total student population of approximately 2,100.

"In my grade level, I can't think of anyone who was out," said Jesus Peña a 2002 graduate of the school.

By contrast, a contingent of 11 students from San Francisco's prestigious private University High School attended the vigil. All are members of that school's gay-straight alliance, which they said has more than 25 members out of a total student population of approximately 400. That school produced the *Laramie Project* in late October.

Next steps

In response to the Araujo murder both the city and the school district are struggling to come up with plans to respond to the killing.

"I don't know what to do. And I usually know what to do. I don't have the answers to anything, neither does the mayor or city council. We need to look at ourselves inwardly and ask what we can do to change," said City Manager Alberto Huezio at a meeting on Thursday, November 7 with teenagers from the newly formed student PRIDE! organization.

Huezio said that the city will organize a community meeting in December with a professional fa-

cilitator, but beyond that, Huezio said, the city does not have specific plans.

Newark Memorial High School Principal Jack Roach said that just prior to the discovery of Araujo's murder the school had begun implementing a policy to combat homophobic language in the school.

The new standards will make it the policy of the school that, according to Roach, "no adult would hear the words 'faggot' or 'gay' without doing something. If it's vicious we'd deal with it with a suspension."

Roach said that he thought doing the production of the *Laramie Project* was a significant step for the school.

"Just doing that play was a lot," Roach told the B.A.R. in an interview. "Although I don't view it as the role of a school principal to get involved in other people's personal lives, maybe I need to take a closer look at the ingrained homophobia."

East Bay Pride's King said that he thought the natural tendency of the city and school administrations would be to "just hope the whole thing will go away so they can go back to their regular lives." But, King said, "This is a gigantic wake-up call. You're going to see change."

PFLAG's Clifford was less optimistic.

"The struggle here is just beginning. The real test is not what happens now while the attention of the world is focused on Newark. The real test will come six months from now when we find out if there really is a change," he noted.

Two of the three men charged with Araujo's murder delayed entering a plea on Friday November 8. Attorneys representing Jose Antonio Merel, 24, of Newark and Michael William Magidson, 22, of Fremont asked for the delay so they could review the audio and video tapes of witnesses' statements.

A third man charged with the crime, Jaron Chase Nabors, 19, of Newark, has pleaded innocent. ▼

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HIV/AIDS and the FMLA: Returning to work and your rights

by Heather Cassidy,
Law Clerk

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear ALRP:

I am HIV-positive and currently employed, but my physician has recently diagnosed me with lymphoma. I need to leave work, but I don't want to lose my current position, my benefits, or my employment. I have heard of the FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act), but I am not sure that I am eligible. I don't want my employer to know about my HIV status, but I want to return to my job when I regain my health. Is the FMLA an option for me?

— Afraid to Lose My Job

Dear Afraid to Lose My Job:

The Family Medical Leave Act was designed to accommodate situations identical to your own. The FMLA allows eligible employees of covered employers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave. Under the FMLA, an employee may be granted leave for a serious medical condition, family medical leave to take care of a family member, pregnancy leave, or parental leave to care for a newborn (or newly adopted) child. Below are answers to the most common questions.

How do I know if my employer is covered by the FMLA?

An employer is covered by the FMLA if he or she employs 50 or more employees for each working day during each of the 20 or more calendar work weeks. Public agencies are covered by the FMLA regardless of the number of employees, as are public and private elementary and secondary schools.

How do I know if I am eligible?

If your employer is covered by the FMLA and you have been employed there for at least 12 months during which you worked a minimum of 1,250 hours, you are eligible to request leave. Fulfillment of this time requirement is measured the day leave commences or is projected to commence. This means that if you give your employer 30 days notice that you will be going on leave, and you have worked 11 months and 2 weeks of the 12-month employment requirement, you will still be eligible because when your leave commences 30 days later, you will have worked 12 months. Another important aspect of the time requirement is that the 1,250 hours of service that count toward the 12 months cannot include paid periods where no work was performed, like vacation, holiday, or sick leave.

Once you have fulfilled the time requirement, you must have a serious health condition that prevents you from performing the function of your position. A serious health condition entitling

FMLA leave includes an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either inpatient care and a period of corresponding incapacity or subsequent treatment, or continuing treatment by a health care provider. How "serious" is serious enough? The FMLA states that the condition is "serious" when it either lasts more than three consecutive days, or it requires continuing treatment by a health care provider.

Do I have to disclose my HIV status when I submit my request for leave?

No, you do not. Your employer will provide a medical certification form and you will need to have your health care provider fill it out. You do need to disclose the medical condition that is the basis for your leave request.

The FMLA requires that the confidentiality guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act apply, such that any medical statements regarding your condition will be treated as confidential.

Will my job be there when I get back?

Under the FMLA, you are guaranteed reinstatement to the same position or to a position equivalent to the one you occupied prior to taking leave, so long as you return to work immediately following the conclusion of your leave. However, in some situations, if your place of employment underwent changes while you were on leave, such as layoffs or downsizing, and your position is no longer available, you will be treated as you would have been had you remained in employment. This means that if your position would have been eliminated due to a layoff even if you had not gone on leave, your employer does not have to guarantee your reinstatement upon your return from leave. In some cases a "layoff" is actually motivated by a desire to get rid of an employee with health problems, but proving this can be very difficult.

Will I still get my medical benefits when I take leave?

If you are covered by a group health plan through your place of employment, it will be maintained for up to 12 weeks. If you normally pay for part or all of your benefits plan, you will be responsible

for continuing to make this payment during your leave. Be sure to make arrangements with whomever is in charge of benefits to prevent cancellation of your enrollment in the plan.

Do I have to take the leave all at once, or can I take it in parts?

For personal leave resulting from a serious medical condition, leave may be taken whenever "medically necessary." There are two alternatives to taking the 12 weeks all at once. Intermittent leave allows you to take leave in separate periods of time as a result of a serious medical condition. Intermittent leave ranges from hours at a time to weeks at a time. For example, if you attend occasional medical appointments during a month, the hours spent at your appointment would count towards your 12 weeks. The second alternative is to coordinate a reduced work schedule, whereby you reduce the number of hours you work in a week or during the day. The reduction in your normal work schedule counts toward your 12 weeks of FMLA leave time.

FMLA is a valuable legal protection for employees with disabilities. If you run into trouble asserting your rights, call ALRP at (415) 701-1200, or another qualified legal services provider for assistance. Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord-tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This article is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Do you have any legal questions? Call ALRP at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353; or write: 1663 Mission Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94103. For specific questions regarding housing call (415) 701-1200, ext. 314. To find out more about ALRP visit the Web site at www.alrp.org.



ALRP Law

TG activists

◀ page 4

greater supervision of jail staff.

"How many times does this need to happen before there is institutional change, and how much money do taxpayers need to pay for the failure of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to treat all people with dignity?" wondered Alexander Lee of TransAction.

The Sheriff's Department was unable to comment on the merits

of the case, according to spokeswoman Eileen Hirst, because Hughes has not yet exhausted all of his appeals.

Hirst refrained from acknowledging the historic nature of the case, but said that Hughes was investigated and received a hearing before the sheriff, who found that there was just cause for the complaint. Hughes still has until next week, said Hirst, to appeal for a full hearing before an administrative officer certified by the Civil Service Commission. ▼

OBITUARIES

Open Hand gets grant

by Zak Szymanski

A \$10,000 grant will help Project Open Hand's recently expanded program that includes critically ill homebound women with cancer.

The grant, known as the "Espiritu Award" for health, comes from the Isabel Allende Foundation, which supports and celebrates projects that serve literacy, education, protection of women and children, and peace. Founded in 1996 in memory of Allende's daughter Paula, a volunteer in poor communities in Spain and Venezuela before she died in 1992, the Espiritu Awards this year gave larger grants (\$5,000 to \$10,000) to fewer agencies in order to be more effective.

Project Open Hand, said Allende, is a "remarkable" organization that has changed in many ways but has always been about "people reaching out to others in loving compassion that brings healing as surely as the nourishing food that is offered."

The Allende grant, said Project Open Hand's Bob Brenneman, will specifically benefit the agency's outreach to women clients. Because focusing on such clients is a relatively new effort for Project Open Hand, which began as an



Isabel Allende

HIV/AIDS agency whose clients were predominately male, securing a grant for these clients made a big difference in the program's future.

"We're very excited about that," said Brenneman. "When we talked with [Isabel Allende] about the program, she didn't know we were doing that now, and she wanted to fund it."

The Allende Foundation is based in Sausalito, and the Espiritu Awards are given annually to various organizations. Other honorees this year included the Bring Me A Book Foundation in Mountain View; the Fairfax/San Ansel-

mo Children's Center in Fairfax; Yoga Inside Foundation in Venice, California; Women's Recovery Services in Santa Rosa; Peace by Peace Global Network in the District of Columbia; City of Joy Aid in India; La Casa Esperanza in Mexico; and La Unidad de Adolescencia in Chile.

In other news, Project Open Hand will be hosting its 11th annual Hand to Hand luncheon on Wednesday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street.

This is the organization's big annual fundraiser. Tickets are \$250 per person, and the menu will feature extraordinary cuisine prepared by some of the Bay Area's best-known chefs, including John Beardsley of Ponzu; James Irby of Kuleto's, Adrian Hoffman of One Market, and Paul Arenstam of Grand Cafe. The event is sponsored by the MAC Cosmetics AIDS Fund. For tickets or more information, call (415) 447-2417. ▼

More information about the awards can be found at www.isabelallendefoundation.org. For information on Project Open Hand, visit www.openhand.org.

George H. Goutier, Jr.
October 2, 1961 — November 4, 2002



George loved San Francisco and like most of us, called The City home. As a client and volunteer at Project Open Hand since its inception, he gave his time generously and his enthusiasm tireless-

ly. We will remember his commitment and compassion to our community. Many will recall him behind the counter of the Grocery Center, anxiously greeting clients with his unforgettable smile, quick wit and abundant good nature. And he did so, week after week, year after year despite his own failing health.

Also, like others, George lived with AIDS for far too many years. The continual development of devastating opportunistic infections frequently resulted in increasingly longer stays in the hospital. As he lay asleep, his battle ended peacefully at Coming Home Hospice.

In 1995, George wrote: "If you are ever going to love me, Love me now, while I may know; All the sweet, tender feelings, Which from real affection

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

flows." All of us who loved him did so, as he wished. And we shall forever cherish and never forget the love he shared with each and every one of us.

In celebration of his life, any contributions on his behalf should be made to Project Open Hand. A memorial service will be held Sunday, November 24. For more information, please contact Ron Sherman at (415) 567-7933.

Rinauro memorial change

Friends and family members of Sal Rinauro, the city resident who was killed in a traffic accident on November 2, have announced that the location for the upcoming memorial has been changed. The celebration of Mr. Rinauro's life will be held this Saturday, November 16, from noon-3 p.m., in Lafayette Park, Sacramento and Gough streets, in San Francisco.

High art, low price at Visual AID benefit

by Zak Szymanski

It's a big deal to find art work by the likes of Yoko Ono, Margaret Tedesco, Bruce Conner, and Leon Vidal, all for a fixed price of \$100. But that's exactly what guests will encounter at the ninth annual "Big Deal" art sale and exhibition, presented by Visual AID this Saturday, November 16, at SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan Street, in San Francisco.

More than 500 pieces of affordable art will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at a fixed price of \$100. Additionally, a silent auction will sell 13 pieces from some of the area's top artists to the highest bidder, and a raffle will offer many other prizes.

Tickets to Big Deal are \$20 and go on sale at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon. Each year several fanatics are known to camp out the night before to secure their pick of the art work, but latecomers always have

hundreds of pieces to choose from. Doors to the sale open at 4 p.m. and the sale runs from 5-8 p.m.

All proceeds benefit Visual AID's programs for artists with life-threatening illnesses. Visual AID's services include an art supply voucher program, art materials bank, exhibition opportunities, career development, and workshops and lectures.

For more information, visit www.visualaid.org, or call (415) 777-8242. ▼

Rapid HIV test

◀ page 1

ities, though he welcomed the approval, which all advocates had supported.

The test will be used to screen women in labor to see if a short course of therapy is recommended to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to their child during birth. It also may be used to screen out those whose weakened immune system puts them at risk for an adverse reaction to smallpox vaccination and therefore should not be vaccinated.

Jim Driscoll sits on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and pushed for approval of OraQuick. He said two issues remain. The first is obtaining what is known as "a CLIA waiver" that will allow the test to be performed in a greater number of less sophisticated medical laboratories. Thompson asked the company to apply for the waiver and it has indicated that it will. Still, it may take some time to jump through all of those regulatory hoops.

The second issue is, "We don't have a rapid confirmatory test, and that is not going to happen soon," said Driscoll.

Another concern is that all tests used to screen individuals for HIV measure antibodies to the virus. It takes, on average, about three months from time of exposure for those antibodies to emerge. And during that period, the level of HIV in a person is sky high, increasing the risk of transmitting it to someone else. Some experts believe that more than half of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year in the U.S. occur during this window period.

Only the much more expensive PCR test, used to measure viral load, can detect infection during this early phase of infection. ▼

TG events

◀ page 4

will be held in 27 states and the District of Columbia to honor the victims of hate-based murder and to stand united against transphobia. Canada, Chile, France, Italy, and Spain will also host events within their borders, and several prominent transgender Web sites will be blacking out their main pages as a show of solidarity.

Over the last decade, more than one person per month has died due to transgender-based hate or prejudice, and since the last Day of Remembrance 25 people have reportedly died due to such bias. The project was started in 1998 by Gwen Smith, who writes the "Transmissions" col-

umn in the *Bay Area Reporter*. She also maintains the Web site, www.rememberingourdead.org. The first Day of Remembrance observance was held in 1999.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance raises public awareness of bias and crimes against transgendered people by publicly mourning and honoring the lives of those who might otherwise be forgotten. Not every victim honored identified as transgender, and not all of them were directly murdered (Robert Eads, who was featured in the movie *Southern Comfort*, for instance, was refused medical attention for the cancer that killed him). But all the dead were victims of transphobia in one form or another.

The San Francisco Day of Remembrance will start at 6:30 p.m.

at Harvey Milk Plaza, at Market and Castro streets. From there, marchers will proceed along Market Street to the LGBT Community Center (1800 Market Street) for a 7:30 speak out and memorial. The event is sponsored by the FTM International Network, FTM International, the San Francisco Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Transgender San Francisco, and TransBay.

The University of California, San Francisco will also be hosting a Day of Remembrance event from noon-1:00 p.m. on campus in Nursing 225 at 513 Parnassus Street.

More information on victims of transphobia and the annual Day of Remembrance can be found at www.rememberingourdead.org. ▼

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Marsupial! Thanks for asking!

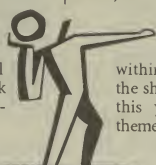
by Jim Provenzano

A waddling penguin might be familiar to tourists at the Sydney Zoo, as are many of the continent's unusual and beautiful creatures, but when he's 6 feet tall and followed by a slew of pink drag queens, then a musical number, it can only be Pink Flamingos, a.k.a. Aqua-Mania.

While many sports all over town wound up to their exciting final Gay Games VI matches, including touch rugby, tennis, badminton, and bowling, the highlight of the evening was all wet.

After fans spent days in the pleasantly hot sun or catching the efficient trains and buses all over town, being all wet is a good thing. The annual International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics meet, having

merged this year with the Games, regularly concludes its serious swimming competition with a grandly funny series of vignettes and tributes incorporating divers, floating inflatable dolls, palm trees, and anything else the creative swimmers could come up with. Some did it within days or minutes of the show, all incorporating this year's South Pacific theme.



Sports Complex

Outside the pool's back door, a *Gilligan's Island* cast bumped hips with a crew of Bondi Beach lifeguards. Pacific Islander drag queens sported machetes and feathered head dresses.

Among the best, touching tributes to PWAs, and the grand pink drag queen from Team Amsterdam, whose voluminous skirts unleashed a slew of boy-toys.

Among the grandest, Paris' flag unfurling over the diving platform

above a dance line of loin-clothed dancers. The best story line goes to Team New York, for its *Sopranos*-inspired "South Passaic," where everybody ends up named "Swims with Fishes."

The winning number, presented by Team Tsunami, fully encompassed one large pool to full Buzby Berkeley style. It wasn't the massive numbers of wet San Franciscans that convinced the judges, but the skillful campy use of diving, swirling patterns, quick changes, and simple design.

Okay, it was the massive numbers. Tsunami sent the largest swim contingent, and will host the next big gay swim event, IGLA 2003, August 22-24 at Stanford University's new pool, where more than 1,000 lesbian and gay swimmers will set personal bests, break records, and hopefully not leave boa feathers stuck in pool drains.

Wet ones

It's easy to understand why swimmers are among the most affable at the Games. The best party of all was not the most crowded, or even the most expensive. Oceania, held just after Aqua-Mania, proved to be a giddy, cleansing joyride for hundreds.

Despite some confusion over automatic timed coin lockers, most swimmers were able to change into suits and splash about in the huge kiddy pool with a water slide and mini-river raft loop, conveniently located at the same aquatics center in Sydney's Olympic Park.

With so many fans and medal-winning jocks running around together, it recalled a classic Dr. Seuss book, *The Sneetches*, in which those with stars on their bellies become the envy of the



Gay Games swimmers show their assets: Bondi guys backstage.

star-less Sneetches. After an enterprising elish creature sells them tickets to a star-belly machine, the confused Sneetches can't tell who is who, starred and starless.

Locker rental: \$2.50. Oceania tickets: \$20. Tumbling down a chute of water with an entire water polo team? Priceless.

"This is so great!" giggled a multi-medaling track star from New York. "I get to smooch with a guy in a hot tub at the Olympic Pool! Fuck those circuit parties!"

Those who forgot their Speedos remained dry, and

danced outside to a small live band of percussionists/vocalists who kept revelers dancing on a lawn framed by colorfully lit palm trees.

"This is just like our parties back home!" shouted Nan, a young Samoan woman. Having traveled to watch a friend run track, she had not competed, and proudly showed not a gold medal, but a golden seashell necklace.

Even the express train back to Sydney Central was eventful. Tennis players from San Diego traded pins with cyclists from Berlin. Others shared opinions about their temporary favorite restaurant or nightclub.

The handy maps and guides would soon become treasured souvenirs. All disputes over wins and scores were settled with the knowledge that complete scores would soon be posted on the Sydney2002 official Web site.

For many, with matches and games continuing all week, the pleasure of having completed competition was enough, but combined with the campy, splashy evening, the first opportunity to sleep late beckoned.

Rugger hugger

While some members of the SF Fog Rugby Club played touch rugby in Sydney, others stayed home to get ready for more action. The Fog is co-hosting a friendly round-robin tournament this Sunday, November 17, at Skunk Field. Other participating sides are the Olde Gaels RFC (Walnut Creek), the San Jose Silverhawks, and local rivals Baracas RFC (San Francisco/Oakland). Herz Playground, located at 1700 Visitation Avenue, near the Cow Palace. Visit www.sffog.org for maps and info. ▼

For more info on IGLA 2003, visit www.sftsunami.org. For nearly complete score and results, visit www.sydne2002.org.au/frame.asp. Full features on all sports to follow over the next few months. Send your Gay Games stories, stats, gossip, and pics to jimproven@yahoo.com. Articles about Gay Games VI will be archived soon at www.sportscomplex.org.



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INTA-AUSSIE

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Dry Halloween

◀ page 2

cohol is not supported by everyone. Writing in the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro newsletter this month, MUMC President Patrick Batt stated he does not embrace such a policy.

"Personally, I do not agree with the concept of zero tolerance and have not embraced these suggestions when they have been offered," wrote Batt.

He did admonish merchants that they do have a responsibility when it comes to the sale of alcohol during such events as Halloween.

"Merchants who ignore our annual requests to curb the sale of items in glass containers and those who flaunt the law by selling to persons clearly under the legal drinking age only add fuel to this increasing drumbeat of zero tolerance," stated Batt.

During the meeting, Batt said he would be opposed to any policies that have a negative financial impact on merchants.

"I am opposed to merchants not making money on Halloween," he said, explaining the profits from the evening help to pay for extra security and portable toilets on that night.

Several community groups have stepped forward to try to plan and promote a safer Halloween, including a coalition of artists and late-night party promoters who hope to have some entertainment to provide the crowd with more to do than simply drink.

With Halloween falling on a Friday night next year, the issue of crowd control could be amplified with more people willing to venture out on a weekend night. This year's event attracted more than 300,000 people, overwhelming police and creating problems for paramedics trying to reach victims of several stabbings and gay bashings that night.

"We are really fortunate we only had four injuries. We dodged a bullet and we need to take a lesson from that," said Suhr.

Both candidates running for District 8 supervisor plan to hold community meetings with police, city leaders, residents and merchants to address how to plan for Halloween, once elected.

Eileen Hansen early on suggested the city look at hosting a dry Halloween during a candidates forum prior to the holiday. In light of this year's problems, she said eliminating the element of alcohol needs to be seriously discussed.

"There is general agreement that alcohol is a large part of the problem. But there are other issues to look at when considering that as a policy," she said. "There is no guarantee that would ensure the safety of Halloween participants. I support the Late Night Coalition's proposal to have entertainment in the Castro. People would be less inclined to wander the streets to drink and cause trouble."

Bevan Duffy said the city needs to take control of the event and can no longer view it as a "non-event event."

"We can't burrow our collective heads in the sand any more as it relates to Halloween. We immediately need to commit that the city is going to manage Halloween," said Duffy, who allowed police to use his campaign headquarters on Market Street as a command post. "The very first issue has to be alcohol. Not having alcohol on the streets may prevent the violence we had on the streets this year." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - Community Court Initiative Fund

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOJC) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the Community Court Fund Initiative. The purpose of the Community Court Fund is to support neighborhood beautification, restoration, and public safety projects. Applications are due December 1, 2002 and June 1, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at MOJC. Eligibility is limited to neighborhood community-based organizations with documented non-profit (501 (c)(3)) status that are located and/or provide services in Bayview Hunters Point, OMI/Taraval, Mission, South of Market, Tenderloin, Excelsior and the Western Addition. Agencies are eligible to apply for a maximum amount of \$2,500 per RFP. Awards are contingent upon the availability of funding in each of the designated neighborhood Community Court Fund accounts. Amounts available per Community Court neighborhood will be listed on the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice website one month prior to application deadline. The RFP will be available at: MOJC 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 496, San Francisco, CA 94102

VACANCY NOTICES - Boards, Commissions

Interested Persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: <http://www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs>

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM (NAPACAC)

The Committee's responsibilities are to be an Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors, oversee the Natural Areas Program and planning process, to report and make recommendations directly to the Board of Supervisors, and to develop a management plan for natural areas in the City. The Committee shall report to the Board of Supervisors by November 1, 2003, a summary of its work, and any recommendations it may have for further legislative initiatives on the part of the City. The Committee shall terminate and cease functioning on December 1, 2003, unless otherwise extended by the Board of Supervisors.

The NAPACAC consists of twelve members, ten of whom are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Two members shall be appointed by the General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department. Compensation: None.

INVITATION TO BID - Solicitation No. 02-620-IFB-053

The San Francisco Housing Authority will accept sealed bids for the Cantilevered Canopy Framing Repairs at CAL 1-18 (4). Alice Griffith Development, located in the City of San Francisco, CA. The estimated construction cost is \$1,000,000.

On November 20, 2002, 10:00 AM, prospective bidders will meet at 207 Cameron Way for an optional walk-through, with a pre-bid conference to follow.

Bids are due 2:00 PM, December 2, 2002 at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA.

Call Basil Nicolaou, Senior Project Manager, (415) 715-5942, with questions about the IFB. Contact Rozina at (415) 715-3212 for bid documents.

MAJOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING

The Mayor's Office of Housing offers FREE services including funding up to \$10,000.00 to clean up lead-based paint hazards from the residences of low to moderate-income households. This program will be available only for a short time. For more information on the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, call Ted Tulle at: (415) 252-3102.

STATEMENT FILE 0261306-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hostcast. 1690 Bay Street, San Francisco, CA. 94123. This business is conducted by limited liability corporation signed Angel Lance, owner, manager, member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 12, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/2002.

OCT. 24, 31, NOV. 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The New Black. 2120 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott J. Owens Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2002.

OCT. 24, 31, NOV. 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261755-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rosie's Florist. 1155 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2002.

OCT. 24, 31, NOV. 7, 14, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 02-540501

In the Matter of the Application of Sherry Kathleen Burdick For change of Name. The application of Sherry Kathleen Burdick for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sherry Kathleen Burdick has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sherry Kathleen Sly. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Confusion Boredom LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2801 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Title of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

OCT. 31, NOV. 7, 14, 2002

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION

CASE NUMBER: FDI-02-750384 Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by petitioner, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Anke S. Johnson, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property: NOW, on motion of Gregory Johnson, Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), Petitioner(s), or contestant(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant; that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262177-00

STATEMENT FILE 0261759-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Leather Navigator Media. 3955 17th Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas A. Van Den Broeck. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 1, 1996. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2002.

OCT. 31, NOV. 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261914-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunwing, USA. 130 Landers Street #J, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Larry Dean Elwyn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/28/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shave And A Haircut. 3685 17th Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Liam C. Passmore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/25/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261966-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bad Company Films, Good Company Films; San Francisco Film Society, San Francisco Cinema Club. 2828 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert (AKA Raoul) F. Shapiro. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/29/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261979-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Apple Homecare Medical Supply. 68 Cumberland Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Edward Shankle. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/30/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262108-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hau Hardwood Floor. 1299 Gilman Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hau Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 4, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/04/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261352-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Carmelinas Tanqueria. 500 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94143-0234. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Carmelina Narciso, Karim Salgado and Marco Ballesteros. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/03/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Digital Memories. 4220 Cesar Chavez, No. 211, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bernard J. Gundy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/30/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0262083-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Mandalay Dental. 5865 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Han Tin D.D.S. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/04/2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

The following person(s) are doing business as: 7 By 7 Artistry, Photography By Kirk J. Crippens. 1671 Golden Gate Avenue #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kirk J. Crippens. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/06/2002.

NOV. 14, 21, 28, DEC. 5, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0262163-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Casa Blanca Realty & Tax Services. 3519 Mission Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Guadalupe Schmitt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/06/2002.

NOV. 14, 21, 28, DEC. 5, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 259640

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Digital Memories. Located at: 4220 Cesar Chavez #211, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business was conducted by an individual signed David A. Lara. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 26, 2002.

NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

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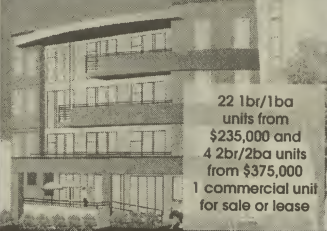
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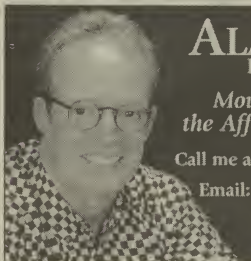
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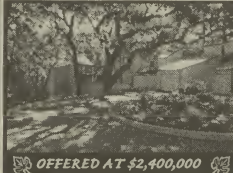
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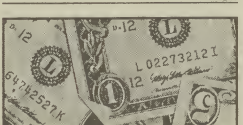
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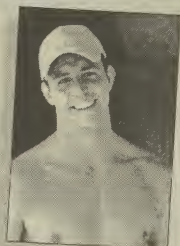
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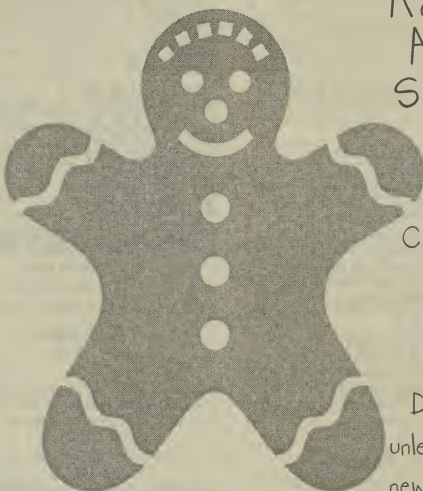
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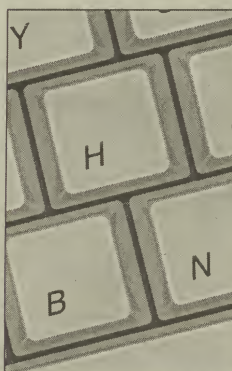
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Memories of a screwed-up childhood
Augusten Burroughs' memoir 'Running
with Scissors' revisits the kitschy '60s.
page 42

A true Cook's tour
Former Broadway ingenue
explores Sondheim songs.
page 33



All that heaven allows
Interviews with Todd
Haynes, Dennis Quaid.
page 35



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 46 • 14 November 2002

True transgressions



Dennis Quaid and
Julianne Moore in
Far From Heaven

Todd Haynes strays Far from Heaven

by Robert Julian

It is the fall of 1957 in Hartford, Connecticut. Cathy and Frank Whitaker are the perfect suburban couple, living in the perfect suburban rancher and driving the perfect Buick station wagon to pick up their two perfect children from school. The happy couple is featured in the society columns, and they serve as models in print ads for Frank's employer, Magnatech. One night, Cathy gets a call from the police station to come collect Frank; he has been arrested for loitering in a men's room. Clearly, it isn't going to be a perfect evening.

After the qualified success of *Velvet Goldmine*, writer/director Todd Haynes (*Poison, Safe*) returns to the screen with *Far from Heaven*, a terrific and ambitious film. Haynes offers audiences an homage to the work of director Douglas Sirk (*Written on the Wind, Imitation of Life*). In the 1950s, Sirk specialized in overripe domestic melodramas featuring actresses like Lana Turner, Lauren Bacall, and Dorothy Malone. Each of his films was a movie life of sorts, illustrated with great technicolor sets and costumes, heaving bosoms, and handsome leading men. In *Far from Heaven*, one déjà vu moment follows another, but the viewer needs no familiarity whatsoever with the Sirkian oeuvre to appreciate this story.

Cathy Whitaker (Julianne Moore) begins to understand that her husband Frank (Dennis Quaid) may be homosexual. As the couple seeks counseling, Cathy innocently relies on the understanding and compassion of her black gardener, Raymond (Dennis Haysbert). But when Cathy and Raymond are seen together publicly in

page 41 ►

Six highlights from independents

2002 Film Arts Festival by David Lamble

This year's Film Arts Festival, through Nov. 17 at various venues, features all-expenses-paid trips to two sun-drenched paradises: the island of Oahu, for the inspirational story of the woman who pioneered the now-thriving women's professional surfing movement; and Cuba, where an all-male cottage industry exists to preserve a living museum of American classic cars.

In 1978, women's professional surfing wasn't even on the map when a former champion male surfer, Fred Hemmings, persuaded ABC's *Wide World of Sports* to come to Hawaii to see a group of women ride 15- to 20-foot waves, or possibly die trying. "They bought it, they wanted carnage, and they were going to get it. Some women couldn't even make it out beyond the shore-break," says Rell Sunn, whose exploits that day almost single-handedly put women surfers on TV screens around the world.

Heart of the Sea filmmakers Charlotte Lagarde and Lisa Denker use this moment as a jumping-off point to show why Rell Sunn (her Hawaiian name translates as Heart of the Sea) came to mean much more to Hawaiians and female athletes than "the triumph of victory and the agony of defeat." Diagnosed with breast cancer at 32, Sunn became an ambassador for early detection and prevention programs while persevering in her roles as a single parent, deep-sea diver, lifeguard, and mentor for Makaha's large population of at-risk youth. Lagarde and Denker neatly balance intimate visits with Sunn's vast network of friends with a conversation with Sunn two months before her death which allows us to feel that she's telling her story, framed by breathtaking underwater and curl-of-the-wave surfing footage. *Heart of the Sea* is a love poem to Hawaii's matriarchal heritage.

page 40 ►



Rell Sunn
hangs 10 in
Lagarde and
Denker's
Heart of the Sea.

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CHECK DIRECTORY OR CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES - NO PASSES ACCEPTED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT

by Roberto Friedman
and Macro Batt

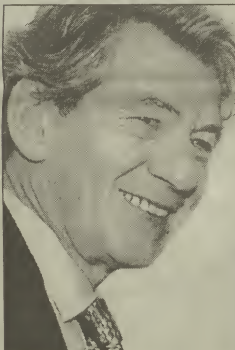
Just another sideshow: Out There was invited to last week's opening night of Cirque du Soleil's *Varekai*, under the Grand Chapiteau bleu et jaune in the Pac Bell Parking lot. But the invitation didn't say anything about what would happen in the event of a major wicked rainstorm. We were in the crowd waiting to get into the Big Top, being whipped around by the rain and wind, a squall blowing in from the Bay, when word disseminated that the night's circus was kaput.

Fortunately, the opening-night party was not canceled, so we schlepped over to the pier, to the venue our date charmingly christened, "fucked-up Shed A." If the party guests arrived two hours early and sopping wet, the party-givers were more than up to the task, popping and pouring hot and cold running Veuve Clicquot. Well, mostly lukewarm. It was no circus, although there were a fair number of stiltwalkers and clowns in the crowd. Thanks again, *Madame Clicquot*, for the night you invented bubbly.

Anyway, "Big Top" — that's what they all say.

M 'n' M

Yes, by now it's warmed-over dish that when exalted actor Sir Ian McKellen was in town on a recent jaunt, he got together with his old Army buddy Maupin for Martinis at Martuni's. Lessee now, that's M & M for Ms at Ms, which even out-ems overexposed rapper



Hobbitwatch: Sir Ian in SF.



Russian Swings at Varekai, which opened after the winds died down.

Eminem!

Anyway, we think Sir Ian had exactly the right idea, because as the Lord (of the Rings) knows, after a few Martinis, even the *Hobbits* sitting over their vodkas in the banquettes start looking good!

Beyond Karen

Many people think that TV star Megan Mullally, who plays drinky socialite Karen Walker on *Will & Grace*, is the funniest woman in television comedy today. Turns out she really can sing the house down, too, as evidenced by her new CD *Big as a Berry* on Fynsworth Alley. Mullally lets to-

woman, Gloria, 'a short Joan Collins lookalike,' was a lesbian and in love with her. Gloria, a topless model who had tried to get Mills to pose topless as well, threatened her with a knife, but she managed to escape. Draw, along with OT, a huge sigh of relief.

Scary monsters

Next time you read in a *Chronicle* scene column about SF high-society couple Charlot and George Shultz attending some gala, remind yourself that Shultz does not in any way embody the spirit of SF. That was certainly apparent in his recent *Chron* opinion piece, "Let's Not Pay the Price of Inaction," in which he wrote, "Certainly, in the long history of the nation-state system, there's been the assumption that you don't intrude into the borders of another state. But our world has changed." Yes: the scary people are in charge again.

Exhibit A: Senate Majority Leader-to-be Trent Lott. Have you ever watched Lott on C-SPAN? He looks to be made entirely of wax. Give that man a wick and he's a votive candle, with a very, very bad toupee.

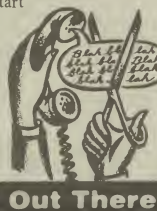
Koko ono

Reuters reported last week that Koko, California's famous "talking gorilla," is breaking into song these days. "The 31-year-old lowland gorilla, who is said to have mastered some 1,000 terms in American Sign Language, has 'written' lyrics for a new album, her keepers said.

"The songs show a real depth of emotion. She's a complex person, just like we are," said Jennifer Patterson, a spokeswoman for the California-based Gorilla Foundation near San Francisco that has been Koko's home for some three decades.

"The album, entitled *Fine Animal Gorilla* after Koko's term for herself, runs the gamut of musical styles from low-intensity rap and reggae to lullabies." That's an ape with range!

Not many people know that Koko is also a daily reader of *The Wall Street Journal*, but Out There has the scoop that Koko's play-list includes "Can't Help Lovin' That Ashcroft of Mine" and "Chatanoga Cheney." She's really into gorilla warfare. ▼



Out There



Megan Mullally belts it out.

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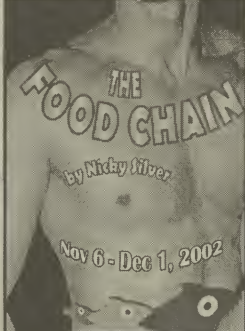
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THEATRE

Oral fixation

Nicky Silver scales 'The Food Chain'

by Richard Dodds

For Serge, the preening male model in Nicky Silver's *The Food Chain*, it is the most painful insult imaginable. "You only do runway," says his ex-boyfriend. "You're not good-looking enough for print."

Body issues play a major role in Silver's 1995 twisted comedy that finds its five characters in desperate need of validation. Amanda, an anorexic poet, was so appalled by her former fat self that she changed her name and has since posed as her cousin. And then there's outrageously obese Otto, Serge's castoff lover, whose self-pity is only interrupted when his mouth is stuffed with junk food — and even that doesn't always stop him.

Silver's play is lonely man's lament, but it is also highly comic. While the cast of the Unidentified Theatre Company's slightly tatty production at New Conservatory Theatre Center is of uneven polish, there is enough skill on hand to elicit many of the laughs and at least some of the underlying pathos.

It's not for nothing that the focus of an intense romantic rivalry is a mostly mute cipher. Both



Unidentified Theatre Company in *The Food Chain* at New Conservatory.

Amanda and Serge are able to project on Ford whatever attributes they need to sustain their needy passion. In this world, people who need people are little more than narcissists looking for mirrors in other people's faces.

As Serge, Scott Cox spends a good deal of the first act displaying his tweaked body in a pair of Calvin Klein briefs. But Cox seems more boy-next-door than a strap-

ping model, which makes Serge more likable than he may be meant to be. Still, it's an energiz-

page 39 ►

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Onion rings

Layered 'Bombay Trunk'

by Richard Dodds

Felice Picano's *The Bombay Trunk* is a play that defies a typical review. Almost nothing is as it seems to be, with each subsequent scene proving another layer of information as well as artifice. But to delve into a discussion of its pluses and minuses would reveal, and destroy, its central mechanism.

Indeed, not even the swaths of bad writing and acting can be comfortably judged, because they may be good writing and acting. Confused? Well, *The Bombay Trunk* is a play that demands attention and occasionally rewards it.

Picano is a celebrated and pioneering gay novelist who has sometimes ventured into theater. *The Bombay Trunk*, having its world premiere at New Conservatory Theatre Center, was actually written 15 years ago. Picano discovered that those who read it couldn't figure out what was going on. He has said that audiences have since caught up with the play's onion-like stylings.

The setting is, sort of, a New England vacation home where a noted novelist's bitchy wife, sarcastic son, and wimpy secretary have gathered following the writer's apparent suicide. A local cop, who may be the son's ex-lover, doubts the suicide scenario, and spies upon the trio as they try to learn what secrets a mysterious trunk contains.

Inasmuch as the cast list includes Jonathan Cavendish, the novelist, as well as Christian Heppinstall, the actor who plays him, it is not revealing too much to report that the writer is alive if unwell. But that needs to be the end



Benjamin Privitt, Douglas Giorgis

of any plot summary.

Still, it can be said that the play grows tedious in the lengthy first scene, with forced humor and strange dialogue. "They say it takes a wise man to know his own father," earnestly observes the cop. But there turns out to be a method to the mediocrity, and interest increases as each subsequent layer of artifice is stripped away. Unfortunately, when the final layer is removed, Picano turns serious, and the play ends portentously.

Director Clay David's production, on Nancy Mancias' well-appointed set, tells the convoluted tale effectively if a bit fussily. Tiffany Hoover, Benjamin Privitt, and Michelle Starrs all have their moments as, respectively, mother, son, and secretary. But the standouts are Heppinstall as the shell-shocked novelist and Douglas Giorgis as the young sheriff.

The Bombay Trunk is part of NCTC's Pride Season of gay-themed works, though, like everything else in the play, homosexuality is a mirage. ▼

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Guest conductors, beloved soloists at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas is on autumn hiatus, but life at Davies Hall goes on. Concerts in recent weeks have actually exceeded expectations. An excellent guest conductor and a heartfelt farewell to a beloved soloist have kept things moving along with absorbing programs.

Czech conductor Jiri Belohlavek has made regular stops in San Francisco since his debut in 1994. Currently based in Prague, he always brings the wonderful music of his homeland with him, and promotes his heritage with a persuasive advocacy. It doesn't hurt that he has such a rich repertoire to draw from.

The music of Leos Janacek should be better known in this country, and, by happy coincidence, the Opera is currently mounting his searing *Kat'a Kabanova*. Belohlavek opened his program with that composer's exciting Overture to *From the House of the Dead*.

The opera it usually precedes is based on the grim but uplifting Dostoyevsky novel of the same name. Replete with clanking chains and a recurring high-pitched theme for two violins, the Overture is a fully satisfying piece in its own right. There is a sense of ultimate triumph lurking

throughout, and the orchestra responded beautifully to the conductor's obvious dedication.

Another Czech composer, Bohuslav Martinu, was given the entire second half of the bill. The Symphony No. 4, perhaps the most accessible of the marvelous six, shows his style to best advantage, and again, conductor and musicians were in thrilling harmony.

Martinu uses the orchestra masterfully, especially the strings. Their radiant passages in the first movement sound almost like some great magical cloud of whirling insects. Melody is abundant throughout, and there is plenty of momentum to hold interest to the sunny finale of the kaleidoscopic score. Belohlavek was clearly pleased by the audience's enthusiastic response to the music of his countrymen.

Both scores framed the music of another composer who spent a deal of time in the glorious city of Prague, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The Piano Concerto No. 23 provided guest soloist Ivan Moravec an opportunity to show his aristocratic technique.

Moravec, known to this listener mostly from recordings, displays an elegant refusal to prettify Mozart's inspiration. The music-box charm of some of the concerto was side-stepped for a stronger sound. The melting loveliness of the central Adagio sounded closer to Beethoven than Haydn, and

rightfully so. Never showy, but always in complete command, the pianist sailed through the difficult cadenzas with ease.

Upon taking his bows, Moravec gallantly kissed the hand of First Violinist Nadya Tichman. Every inch the charming international gentleman, by his gesture he summed up the feeling of the night. It was the kind of concert you might encounter in the smaller halls of Europe, beautifully moved to Davies Hall.

Fond farewell

Last week will linger in the memory more for the importance of the event than for the actual music-making. Pianist Alicia de Larrocha made her North American debut with the San Francisco Symphony in 1954. She has since appeared here almost 80 times, almost once for every one of her nearly 80 years. The most recent performances marked her 30th engagement with the SFS, and brought her announcement to retire from the concert stage at the end of the season.

She could have played "Chopsticks" and received an avalanche of approval and affection. Instead, de Larrocha opened with Haydn's delightful Piano Concerto in D Major, and concluded her "set" with her signature *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*. It was an arduous workout for an almost octogenarian, but the diminutive powerhouse appeared unfazed.

I have never thought of her as a classical stylist. She has made her considerable fame with Beethoven and the music of her native Spain. A big, romantic sound seems to flow effortlessly from those tiny hands. Still, the choice of the delicate and witty Haydn Concerto was not an altogether bad one.

A few missed notes, some muddy tone and a noticeable clinker did no major harm to de Larrocha's purposeful rendition of Haydn's irresistibly tuneful score. She earned a happy ovation, and it warmed her up for the stronger imagery of de Falla's lovely episodic tone poem.

Conductor Osmo Vanska, making his SFS debut, was not terribly helpful. His management of the orchestra swamped the soloist at times, despite her obvious mastery and surprisingly still powerful touch. The beloved veteran soared in the lyrical passages and gave exquisite detail to the delicate soft moments.

The response from the audience was ecstatic, and, for once,



Pianist Alicia de Larrocha: Adios.

this was a standing ovation that was not only deserved but mandatory. We share a moving gratitude towards individuals who have dedicated their lives to music.

Alicia de Larrocha displayed little emotion at the overwhelming response, insisting that the orchestra rise upon her every return to the stage. They refused during one call and joined in the tumultuous applause. In their own way, they recognize the sacrifices and discipline that make a great artist. We are all thankful for the poetry, solace, and understanding they bring to the world. ▼

Zombies rock

by Jason Serinus

Offering an ideal bridge between the horrors of Halloween and the ravages of Christmas consumerism, the musical extravaganza *Young Zombies in Love* continues its run at San Francisco's Venue 9 through December 7. A spoof of every Zombie movie that ever soiled the Silver Screen, the original 2001 Emerald Rain Production of the show drew raves from rock legend Neil Young, who called it, "A great new musical! Bound for Broadway, and I don't mean North Beach."

The musical revolves around two high school seniors, Lu and Nick from Tombtown. Lu is hot for Nick, but poor Nick is scared of intimacy. Somewhere in the midst of their gripping love drama, the duo discovers the bodies of Jimmie and Jamie Fodder, twin high school football players, and shortly thereafter, their murderer, a Zombie cheerleader who wields a huge No. 2 pencil. After the love-crossed pair tries to tell the Sheriff, who doesn't believe them, they turn to Dr. Itsacult, a local mad professor, who warns them that a Zombie epidemic approaches.

Nick ends up being killed and becoming a Zombie, at which point Lu tries to convince her failed paramour to help her stop the Zombie menace. Since the Zombies are completely apathetic until they reach a critical mass, the trick is to stop them before they reproduce in sufficient numbers.

The show's award-winning composer, Gaby Alter, who co-founded Emerald Rain Productions (ERP) in 1993, was only 24 when he received the 1998 Bay Area Critic's Circle Award for Best Original Score for *Vapor Tales*. Alter's contemporary music reflects the influences of rock, funk, electronica, calypso, swing, and country. The lyrics, of course, are *très* tongue-in-cadaver.

"The show represents a reversal of gender roles," Alter explains. "High school senior Lu is the take-charge, sexually aggressive person,

Emerald Rain Productions presents *Young Zombies in Love*.

while Nick, the object of her affections, is a wimp."

According to the show's author, Damien Hess, 28, *Young Zombies in Love* is "the greatest rock musical about reanimated corpses since *Jesus Christ Superstar*."

"I grew up on Zombie movies. I've always been a big fan of horror comedy because it's gruesome and hilarious at the same time; I like being pulled in both directions."

The ERP duo revised the show, taking it a step farther by adding a song and tightening the script, after spending 15 months recording the soundtrack. The 16-track, well-recorded CD, which includes five selections from ERP shows gone by, is available at www.emeraldtrain.com.

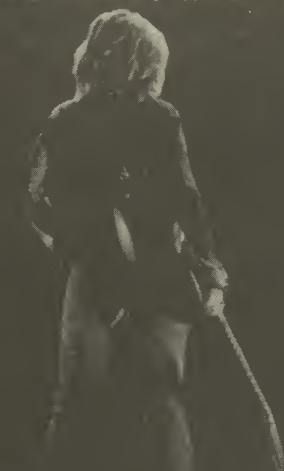
ERP is a homegrown, San Francisco theater company dedicated to producing original plays and pop/rock musicals. ERP's plays explore such topics as proms and teen pop idols (*Itgirl*), superheroes and self-image (*Vapor Tales*), apathy and the undead (*Young Zombies in Love*), globalization and alien invasion (*Earth Verses*), and a San Francisco favorite, paying the rent (*Birthday Cake*).

Young Zombies in Love continues its run at SoMa's Venue 9 Thurs.-Sat. nights (save for Thanksgiving weekend) through Dec. 7. For reservations and information, call (510) 982-0433. ▼

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Part of the gay family

Barbara Cook returns to SF with 'Mostly Sondheim'

by Richard Dodds

Barbara Cook had been a gay icon for more than a decade when she found out that her own son was gay. It hit her hard. After all, he was in his 30s, living with a woman, and everyone thought they were going to get married.

"He's not one of those people who looks gay, if you know what I mean," Cook said recently by phone. "One of the things that bothered me was that here I thought I had known this person so well, and yet I didn't know this extraordinarily important part of him. It really threw me."

Cook, soon to return to San Francisco with her acclaimed *Mostly Sondheim* show, found herself grieving for the son she thought he had. "It was like I had to make friends with my new son," she said. "But before I could do that I had to get out my emotional toolbox and figure out why I was so upset. I realized that he's here to be the fullest person he knows how to be, and my job as his mother is to help him do that."

Adam, now in his early 40s, is Cook's only child from her only marriage, which ended years ago. "I think we're all adjusted now," she said. "He has a wonderful partner whom I love, and they're very happy, and that makes me happy."

Are Adam's gay friends ever a-twitter that his mother is the Barbara Cook? She laughed. "You'll have to ask them," she said.

But ever since the former Broadway ingénue came out of the closet herself as a fat person in the 1970s, her gay fan base exploded, perhaps out of identification with this physical social taboo that she turned inside out. Of course, there was also the glorious soprano voice, coupled with a breathtaking emotional involvement with a choice repertoire.

Cook recently turned 75, and the voice is remarkably intact while the emotional component has only deepened. She is in the middle of a mini-tour with *Mostly Sondheim*, following a Carnegie Hall concert and Tony-nominated Broadway run.

The idea for the show began when Stephen Sondheim, as part of the celebrations of his 75th birthday, offered up a list of songs he wished he had written. Cook and her accompanist Wally Cook mixed together these songs, ranging from "Hard-Hearted Hannah" to "I Got Lost in His Arms," with a generous helping of Sondheim compositions.

San Francisco audience got a preview look at the show two years ago during a short run at the Geary Theatre. "It's changed quite a bit since then," she said. "I've added a few numbers, and the talk



Cook: having a gay son threw her.

has evolved. I think the show is now much tighter and much more together."

Mostly Sondheim will run Nov. 23-30 at the Curran Theater. Tickets are \$30-\$65. Call 512-7770.

Moon beams

Paint Your Wagon isn't precisely a "lost musical," the specialty of 42nd Street Moon, but productions are rare enough to make the cut for the company's new season. Lerner and Loewe's 1951 Gold Rush musical will open the five-show season at the Eureka Theatre on March 28.

Next up, opening on April 25, is Jerome Kern and Otto Harbach's *Roberta*, a goofy tale of a football hero in Paris that pro-

duced one of Broadway's most alluring ballads, "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes."

42nd Street Moon will move to a larger venue still to be announced for *Finian's Rainbow*, opening Sept. 25. A full orchestra will play the 1947 Burton Lane-E.Y. Harburg score for the story of an Irish lass, her scheming father, and a leprechaun.

Oh, Captain!, opening Oct. 31, is a bona fide "lost" musical that was nominated for a best-musical Tony Award in 1958, and disappeared after its run was over. Jay Livingston and Ray Evans (Oscar winners for "Que Será, Será") wrote the score for this musical version of the 1953 movie *The Captain's Paradise*.

The 2003 season will end with 1929's *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, opening Nov. 28, that tells the tales of Americans in Paris, but that is best remembered for such Cole Porter songs as "You Do Something to Me," "I'm in Love,"

and "Find Me a Primitive Man."

On the first Saturday after each opening night, 42nd Street Moon is continuing its Saturday Night Out program for LGBT audiences that includes a post-show reception. For more information, call 255-8207.

Concerted efforts

New Conservatory Theatre Center, which once hosted 42nd Street Moon's productions, now has its own *In Concert* series. Its recently announced 2003 season will conclude with a new revue that former Cockette Scrumblly Koldewyn is helping create.

Closer Than Ever, opening the season on Jan. 18, is a popular revue first staged in the 1980s that pulls together songs by David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. *Red, Hot and Cole*, opening March 22, imagines a musical party at which the guests include Cole Porter and Ethel Merman. In *Taking a Chance*

next page ►



Backstage

Escape to the circus

Rhino's 'Sho Ho' a go-go

by Richard Dodds

If Ziegfeld were still producing his *Follies*, Sara Moore would be his new Fanny Brice.

In *Sho Ho*, her solo show at Theatre Rhino, Moore makes her entrance in thrift-store diva drag, and hilariously mimes an overripe aria into which strains from *Saturday Night Fever* occasionally intrude. At the end of the show, she lets loose with a full-bodied "Dream a Little Dream" that makes you wish she had a few more songs to sing.

And during the 90 minutes that come between the comic start and the poignant finish, Moore creates the entire cast of a hard-scabble circus where her central character finds a family into which she can finally fit. The character's name is Rhonda Hammerstein, but the parallels to Moore's own escape into the circus are clear enough.

The premise also gives Moore ample opportunity to display her gift for sincere caricature by exaggerating the quirks of a character's manner while not letting go of some emotional truth. This becomes especially relevant when her clown partner and best friend takes ill with AIDS, and her extended family rallies around them. John Fisher has skillfully direct-



Sara Moore displays her gifts.

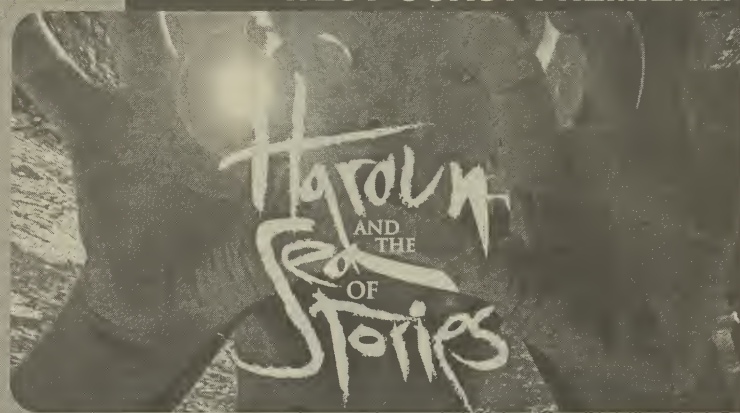
ed the production, but there are times when the clown in Moore pushes too hard for a laugh, and occasionally repetition becomes a substitute for invention. And I sometimes had trouble telling who was telling the story at any moment. Still, Moore deserves the foot-stomping ovation she received at a recent performance. *Sho Ho* is a clowning achievement. ▼

Sho Ho will run through Dec. 7 at Theatre Rhino. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-5079.



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A much overdue return
Bolshoi Ballet cheered at Zellerbach

by Stephanie von Buchau

I remember it like yesterday when the Bolshoi Ballet made its first Cold War visit to the United States in the late 1950s. I was then a major fan of the genteel, tasteful Sadlers Wells (later the Royal) Ballet, and found the Bolshoi hilarious, with its mix of stony-faced ballerinas and real men. These were no typical ballet boys, but guys so beefy and muscular they put words like "hunky" (which we didn't use in those days) to shame.

Even though they wore hairnets and bright red lipstick, they could jump, turn, spin and lift the girls as though they weighed nothing. They were like a species from another planet, and, after they stopped coming, ballet life was definitely not as much fun. (Why do you think Soviet defectors became so popular? Not just because some of them were great dancers, but because they all were fun.)

Last week at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall, the 100-member Bolshoi troupe from Moscow gave six performances of *Swan Lake* to cheering, sold-out crowds. It was their first visit locally in 15 years, and if you missed it, for shame. The costumes would grace any drag queen's wardrobe; in this case, running an anachronistic gamut from medieval to late 19th-century, all embroidered in the gaudiest red, green, black and gold.

The character that got the most applause was a high-jumping homunculus (half the size of the hero) called "The Fool." He doesn't have any music of his own; he just inserts himself in whatever is happening on stage, tumbling, doing splits high in the air and getting all the applause, some of it actually rhythmic from an audience that, by my guess, was about one-half Russian and loving every minute of it.

To any serious student of balletic arts, any lover of Tchaikovsky's great score or any believer in dramatic psychology, this *Swan Lake* could easily be a joke. The production values are cheap, the new choreography only serviceable, and the new scenario so 1950s it could have been penned by Tennessee Williams. Former Bolshoi director Yuri Grigorovich made the piece in 1969, but it was not "allowed" in its finished form by his Soviet masters, presumably because of the unhappy bourgeois ending. Rothbart strangles Odette in front of Siegfried, and the Prince is left alone to contemplate his misdeeds.

We are told this "tragic" Grig-



Nadezhda Gracheva, Andrey Uvarov of the Bolshoi Ballet.

orovich version, boldly revived by Boris Akimov, the new Bolshoi director, is based on Tchaikovsky's original intentions. I don't think so. In addition to spoiling the musical ending, it was as unpleasant to watch the ballerina being throttled as it is to have that German Haz-Mat team show up to haul off Kat'a Kabanova's pathetic body at San Francisco Opera. If we want grisly realism, we'll watch *CSI*, okay?

Dazzle dames

Yet some of Grigorovich's musical decisions are terrific. He's reinstated several parts of the oft-cut score, and restored some of the original order. His biggest coup, to my mind, is employing five brides-to-be on pointe as the leads in Act III's ethnic dances. Instead of sitting around looking pretty and vacuous, five young ballerinas, each more breathtaking than the last, have a chance to dazzle us in the Hungarian, Russian, Spanish, Neapolitan and Polish variations.

That's why people enjoy the Bolshoi; we like having our breath taken away by grand dancing. I've already commented on Morihiro Ivata, the Fool, but the opening night, Odette-Odile was in a class by herself. Nadezhda Gracheva is the kind of drop-dead dominatrix that I've always loved in Soviet ballet. Western ballerinas tend to be soft, feminine, fragile, vulnerable. The Russkies can be flinty,

cruel, arrogant, even scary, and make you love it. Gracheva looked capable of planting a dagger in the back of anyone who crossed her. She burned, as Thurber put it, with a hard, gem-like flame.

And she didn't even dance that spectacularly. She tended to sketch details in the second act, artfully to be sure, and her air of "I'm in command here" was anything but vulnerable. But oh, those shoulders, those deep back bends, those liquid arms. In the third act, with the pas de deux music rearranged, she started her fouettes in the wrong place and fouetted only 24 wobbly ones. Believe me when I tell you that it didn't matter. In fact it reminded me of the time Natalia Makarova admitted that she had trouble with those 32 fouettes, even though any girl at ABT could do them on a dime. Big pause. "But who is ballerina?"

Gracheva is definitely ballerina, but I was disappointed in her partner, Andrey Uvarov. He's tall, blond, lean and elegant, but he had no Bolshoi personality. He wasn't particularly sexy, and I couldn't help getting the feeling that if Odette hadn't been strangled, she'd have made his life miserable. Still, he was a stalwart partner, keeping Gracheva from falling off pointe in her wildly gyrating pirouettes, and lifting her high in the air with ease. Was it artistic or even romantic? No, but it was to die for. ▼

Backstage

◀ previous page

on *Love*, opening May 31, it is lyricist John Latouche who is celebrated.

The new show, *Sex Kittens in Hi-Fi*, recalls the days of lounge music when bachelors had pads that were ready for action. At least that is the fantasy behind the songs of the early '60s for which Koldewyn is creating special arrangements. It opens July 12.

For more information, call 861-8972.

Short scenes

• Marga Gomez, everyone's favorite gap-toothed Latina lesbian comic, makes a return to La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley on Nov. 15 & 16. These performances will be filmed for a documentary on lesbian comedians. Call (510) 654-6346 for ticket info.

• The Shotgun Players is offering the West Coast premiere of Edward Albee's *The Play About the Baby*, with performances beginning this week at La Val's in Berkeley. Reid Davis is directing Albee's ruminations on truth and reality. Call (510) 704-8210.

• We've had *The Vagina Monologues* and *Puppetry of the Penis*, so what's left? *The Asshole Monologues*, opening this week at the Exit Theatre, offers a revolving collection of theater pieces, both comic and serious, that probe the anus. Call 931-1094.

• Teen Angels never age. Frankie Avalon, who played Teen Angel in the 1978 movie of *Grease*, is now headlining a tour of the musical arriving Jan. 14 at the Orpheum. Call 512-7770. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com

FILM

Dennis Quaid is finally gay

In his role in 'Far from Heaven,' that is

by Tim Nasson

Far from Heaven, a throwback to '50s Douglas Sirk melodramas directed by the openly gay Todd Haynes, is an acting stretch for Dennis Quaid. "It's the first time I'm aware, at least," he says, laughing, "that a character I play is gay."

Quaid co-stars with Julianne Moore, as her devoted, executive husband, and father of two pre-teens, living in a rustic Hartford, Connecticut home amidst a nosy coterie of neighborhood women. The movie takes place at the height of foliage season, allowing for not only a colorful storyline, but also equally as brilliant cinematography.

While the movie takes place in '50s Hartford, the film was shot on an old military base in New Jersey, not far from the World Trade Center in NYC. "It was an

abandoned military base," says Quaid. "Everything outside the frame of film was '90s Jersey ghetto. The cinematography, combined with Todd's brilliant idea, allowed for a magical outcome, without any digital enhancing."

There are a lot of ironies in *Far from Heaven*. The most obvious is Dennis Quaid's character in the film, playing the role that Rock Hudson played in Douglas Sirk movies. "Who would have ever watched Rock Hudson in those, and thought that he was gay?" asks Quaid. "You just never know, do you?"

For the record, Quaid insists that he is not gay. "I have a lot of gay friends. One of my good friends is going through the same issues that my character goes through in *Far from Heaven*. He can't come to terms with his sexuality, and it's taking a toll. That's the problem with many men who

are my age or older. We were raised in a different time, when there was no such thing as coming out of the closet. If you were gay, you got married, pretended to be in love with your wife, had children, and lived a lie. Today, though the world is not perfect, many children, especially in this country, are raised to accept everyone and to be who they are. My feeling on the subject of homosexuality is that love is love. You cannot help being attracted to who you're attracted to."

Rough and ready

"I have wanted to work with Todd Haynes," says Quaid, sipping from a cup of coffee, "ever since I saw *Safe* in 1995. He is a brilliant director. But his movies, until now, have not had characters that I would be suited to play. And to be honest, I thought I would be the last person to be chosen to play the husband in *Far from Heaven*."

Quaid means that most critics, producers and moviegoers would not think of him first for a gay role. "That's what Todd wanted, though," Quaid explains. "He wanted an actor that the audience would least expect to be gay, because the movie is told through

the eyes of Julianne's character, and she's oblivious to the fact for the longest time. As Todd says, he wanted 'someone who came with a ready masculinity.' And I am glad that he thinks that I come with 'ready masculinity.'"

Six-foot, three-inch Quaid is in good humor the day I chat with him in Los Angeles. And why shouldn't he be? Not only is he being considered for a Best Supporting Actor nomination for *Far from Heaven*, he's riding the wave of the success of his "comeback" film from earlier this year, *The Rookie*.

Battling a cold that he caught while shooting a new movie at night, in the rain, a couple of days earlier, Quaid says that the fact that he screwed up in the past makes it "all the more sweeter now" that he is back on track, being given a second chance.

"Hollywood has a short memory," explains Quaid. "I made some good movies in the '80s, but then I screwed up big time. I became addicted to cocaine, and was depressed because my wife [at the time, Meg Ryan] was at the top of the world, getting handed the lead in every major motion picture,

page 39 ►



Quaid says he's back on track.

Talking about heaven

With director Todd Haynes

by Gregg Shapiro

With its lush Elmer Bernstein score and Technicolor palette, *Far from Heaven*, written and directed by gay filmmaker Todd Haynes, evokes the Douglas Sirk melodramas of the 1950s. Haynes captures the spirit and mood of the late '50s, particularly in lily-white Connecticut suburbia, where a closeted homosexual husband and a friendship with a black gardener can cause tongues to wag.

The exceptional cast, including Julianne Moore as beleaguered housewife and mother Cathy Whitaker; Dennis Quaid as Frank, the handsome husband with the secret; Dennis Haysbert as Raymond, the widower and father with the green thumb; and Patricia Clarkson as Eleanor, Cathy's best friend and confidant, make this a production a taste of heaven.

Gregg Shapiro: Was the character of Cathy written with Julianne Moore in mind?

Todd Haynes: Yes, totally!

Was Dennis Quaid your first choice for the part of homosexual husband Frank?

He was a top choice for the part. What I did know about Frank was that I wanted him to come with a ready masculinity and a series of associations that would make this struggle much less predictable. Just physically, you wouldn't imagine it being his particular struggle. Dennis Quaid's physicality is something I've never seen in any of his other performances. He's wound like a coil in this movie. I think the effect is so sad and touching, but also difficult and human in that way. He can be really nasty to Cathy, and yet it's something I think we all know, how when you're going through something and you're struggling, and then this person is around you trying



Haynes says he sees clearly now.

so hard to be nice and be extra sweet, you get irritable, and it's a very human reaction.

There's such a vivid use of color in the film, especially the autumn setting when it begins.

It came from a vivid image I got in my head of Julianne in dark sunglasses in a purple scarf, and the blue sky and the autumn colors behind her. It became that kind of leading image from which the whole film unspooled.

Like *Velvet Goldmine* and parts of *Poison*, *Far from Heaven* is a period piece. What do you find most appealing about making movies set in another time?

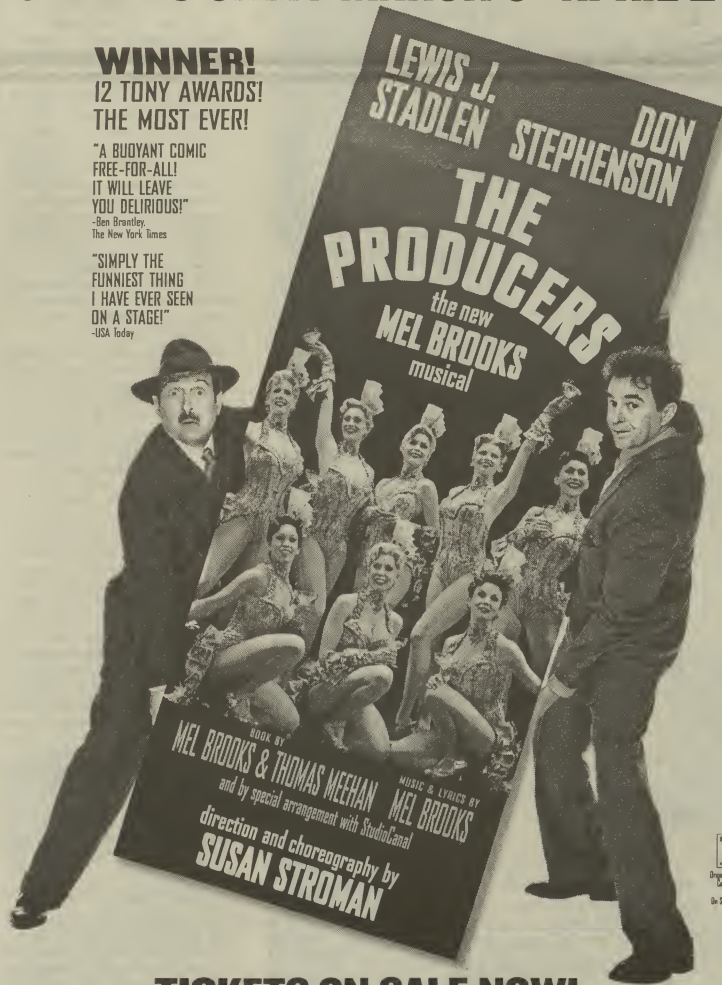
Definitely it's part of that whole adventure of dressing up into them, and indulging and learning about their textures and colors, and even the language of the camerawork that's associated with these times. Even *Safe* is set seven years earlier than the time it was made. You end up learning more about where you are when there's that metaphoric distance. It becomes a surrogate for our contemporary issues. It's that classic thing of when you leave home, you see it more clearly once you've gained distance from where you are. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



copperwimmin vocalize at 848 Community Space as part of "Celebrating the Voice," a night of seriously fun a capella vocalizing. See Friday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Poets corner

In great poets we trust, regardless of whether they're gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual, or straight — they communicate for all beings, opening up worlds of all possibilities. When writers specify their boundaries, the boxes they put themselves into, it's generally for marketing purposes, to appeal to a specific demographic. But the power of words reaches beyond demographics, to the universal, where queer folk blend with the rest. As a poet, ya gotta love it all. Happily, this week you can get a good blend of queer/non-queer/straight-on poetry at a variety of fun locales.

First up, on Saturday, November 16, in a powerful fusion of music and words, jazz/blues great Brenda Boykin joins with Pulitzer Prize-winner Alice Walker for a session of free speech. It happens in North Berkeley at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, near solano. It's a benefit for Boadecia's Books, the independent, feminist bookstore. Tix are \$25 and up, sliding scale. 8pm. Call 510-559-9184

On Tuesday, November 19, at Books Inc. in the Castro, novelist and spoken word performer T. Cooper (www.t-cooper.com) reads her stuff. T's the author of *Some of the Parts* (Akashic Books), "about families, the ones we're born into and the ones we create." T is best known to some as T-Rok of the Backdoor Boys, a boy band with a huge teen following. Joining T will be performance poet goddess Daphne Gottlieb, SF's '96 Queer Poetry Slam Champ, author of *Why Things Burn* (Soft Skull Press) and *Pelt* (Odd Girls Press). The reading starts at 7:30pm at 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777; booksinc.net

Also on Tuesday, Intersection for the Arts' Fall 2002 Literary Series presents Emmy Award-winning journalist, poet, performer Rubén Martínez, author of *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail* (Metropolitan, 2001), and *The Other Side: Notes from the New L.A. Mexico City and Beyond* (Verso, 1992), and is a guest commentator on NPR's "All Things Considered." Joining him will be young poet, educator and performer Leticia Hernández, who got her M.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993, and works as creative writing and arts teacher in the Mission District. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Info: 626-2787; www.theintersection.org

On Wednesday, November 20, the San Francisco Art Institute and the Poetry Center at SF State present a rare solo reading by New York poet Ron Padgett, who has published more than a dozen books of poetry and prose, and is renowned for his translations from the French. Paul Auster calls Padgett "a poet of heartbreaking tenderness and ever-deepening wisdom." \$6 donation. 7:30pm. SFAI Lecture Hall, 800 Chestnut St. Info: 338-2227.

On Thursday, November 21, The Poetry Center hosts an afternoon reading from two of SF's most provocative writers, Dodie Bellamy and Lynn Breedlove. Bellamy is known and loved in the queer community for (among other things) *The Letters of Mina Harker* (Hard Press, 1998), *Feminine Hinx* (Hanuman, 1990), *Real* (Talisman House, 1994), an

epistolary collaboration on AIDS with the late, great gay poet Sam D'Allesandro, and *Cunt-Ups* (Tender Buttons, 2002), a radical feminist revision of the "cut-up" pioneered by William Burroughs and Bryon Gysin. Breedlove is author of *Godspeed* (St. Martins, 2002), the chronicle of a speed-freak lesbian bike messenger, has toured with Sister Spit, and is chief singer/song-writer for dyke-punk band Tribe 8. It'll be rockin'! Free. 4:30pm. Hum 512, SF State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. Info: 338-2227; www.sfsu.edu/~poetry. ▼



Dodie Bellamy



Lynn Breedlove

Fri 15

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

The Sims Center presents "The brÖthers" in the final performance of their AIRspace residency. The seven-member performance ensemble is the collaboration of female-born, male-identified artists of color who run the spectrum from masculine women to transmen. Their mission is to confront the LGBT and general Bay Area communities about the misconceptions and prejudices that face transpeople of color living in a "binary, often hostile, heterosexist world." The seven brÖthers in question are Johnnie Pratt, Angelo Hannah, La Tricia Ransom, Jaycub Perez, Yosenio Lewis, E. Duckett and Prado Gomez. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. and South Van Ness). Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

848 Community Space

CounterPULSE and 848 Community Space present "Celebrating the Voice," an evening of original a capella vocalizing, featuring copperwimmin (three obstreperous young women with brilliant lyrics, haunting voices, and fierce harmonies), Samsara (a women's trio creating music of cultural resistance), Ariel (vocalist creating a melodic madhouse of mirrors and marble paintings), Tonal Chaos (a music improv group), and Loren Olds & Gabriel Todd of Circo Zero (circus music fusing traditional American works songs, spirituals, and contemporary beats. Todd conceived and directs Freaksoultribe; Olds sings with D'Yara). \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8:30pm. 848 divisadero St. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 922-2385; 848.com

EPI @ New College Theater

Krista DeNio, cLOWnFACE productions, and The Experimental Performance Institute (EPI) present "Under the Leaves (Shuberta's Fall), a show that travels between myth and fairy-tale, employing the languages of clowning, physical theater, imagery and dance. The laughing goddess Shuberta gets kicked out of heaven to wander a desert wasteland where she falls in with another god and goddess, and the three set off in search of Shuberta's missing laughter and rain. Featuring Krista DeNio (conception/direction/choreography), Allen Willner (sound score/lighting design), and performer/collaborators victoria monichol kelly and Jenny Schaffer. \$12-\$15. 8pm. Nov. 15-17 & 22-24. New College of California Theater, 777 Valencia St. (btwn 18th & 19th sts.). Tix/info: 487-3487; www.epiarts.org

The LAB

Opening reception: "Four In One Project Room," a visual art exhibition featuring Rita DiLorenzo (drawings influenced by her work in fashion, experienced as a walk-through visual narrative), Randy Moore (street photos of the Playboy bunny logo, reflecting themes of American sexuality, norms and repetition), Ben Prince (installation made for the LAB gallery space, exploring boundaries in painting, installation, and the context of location), and Laura Jo Wegman (paintings, and the toys and candies that inspired them). In the Foyer Gallery: solo show of graphic art by Tohru Kanayama. Free. 7-9pm. Show up Wed.-Sat., 1-6pm, thru Dec. 14. (closed Nov. 28-30). 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855; www.the-lab.org

Castro Theater

The Beth Custer Ensemble performs live accompaniment to the silent film *My Grandmother* (print courtesy Pacific Film Archive), made in 1929 by Kote Mikaberidze in the Soviet Eccentric Cinema style with stop-motion, puppetry, exaggerated camera angles, animation and constructivist sets. The film unspools the foibles and follies of a Georgian paper pusher (modeled

after American silent comic Harold Lloyd) when he loses his job. With composer/performer Custer (Club Foot Orchestra, Trance Mission) are guitarist David James, bassist David Rosenthal, trumpeter/percussionist Chris Grady, cellist Kristina Forester, Russian violinist Yuri Merzhvsky, and actor Nyls Frykdal. Russian intertitles translated live. \$12. 8pm. 429 Castro St. Info: 621-6120; www.the-castrotheatre.com

Aurora Theatre, Berkeley

Preview: "Alarms and Excursions," a comedy from Michael Frayn ("Copenhagen"), eight short plays held together by the simple thread of modern technology: it may be meant to make our lives easier, but it really exists only to torment us. Directed by Søren Oliver. \$28 previews (also Nov. 16, 17 & 20). \$38 opening night (Nov. 21); \$32 Wed, Thu, Sun; \$34 Fri & Sat. Thru Dec. 22. 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-843-4822; ticketweb.com; auroratheatre.org

Multicultural Theater @ Next Stage

Multicultural Theater presents William Saroyan's "The Time of Your Life," a comedy/drama set in a San Francisco waterfront hangout, where a boozing corporate dropout and an entourage of characters strive to rescue an improbable pair of struggling young lovers. Directed/designed by Lewis Campbell. \$15 thu; \$20 Fri & Sat. 8pm. Thru Dec. 21. Next Stage, 1620 Gough St. Tix/info: 333-6389; wehavemet.org

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen's ensemble presents "SORYA! Everything's'll be Good with Happy! :)" a trio of Kyogen comedies in a mix of English and Japanese, featuring two repertoire pieces ("The thunder God" (Kaminari) and "The Snail" (Kagyu), plus a new addition, "The Bonsai Thief (Bonsan). Featuring Mikio Hirata, Ellen Brooks, and artistic directors Lluís Valls, Jubilith Moore, and Libby Zilber, with Stephen Siegel. \$15-\$18 sliding. 8pm. Also Sat. (3pm & 8pm) and Sun. (3pm). 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida St.). Tix/info: 621-7978; theatreofyugen.org

Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre

Preview: "Haroun and the Sea of Stories" by Salman Rushdie; adapted by Tim Supple and David Tushingham; directed by Dominique Serrand (Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Minneapolis). The extraordinary adventures of a young boy on a quest to help his father, a famed storyteller who has lost his ability to tell stories. A dream world of water genies and mechanical birds, where chatter and silence battle for control. \$38 previews (Nov. 15, 16, 17 & 19); \$42 Tue/Thu (8pm) & Wed (7pm); \$43 Thu/Sat/Sun mat. (2pm). Thru Jan. 7, 2003. Student/senior half-price RUSH one-half hour



Dancer Tiekka Schofield with the Lawrence Pech Dance Company performs Angels: Fallen and Otherwise, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. See Thursday.

b4 curtain; \$16 under 30 w/D. \$10 standing room. 2015 Addison St. (one block from Berkeley's downtown BART station). Tix/info: 510-647-2949; berkeleyrep.org. (Mr. Rushdie will be in residence at Berkeley Rep during preview performances, and will take part in "A Conversation with Salman Rushdie" on Monday, Nov. 18, at 8pm, free.)

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

The Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company presents "Portraits of the Chinese Woman, bridging the continuum from ancient court dances to contemporary works grounded in classical Chinese dance and ballet. Music by Gang Situ. \$18-\$32. Nov. 15 & 16. 8pm. 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-2787; www.cccpsf.org

ODC Theater

Spinning Yarns Dance Collective presents "Getting There: Maps and Legends," choreographed by Susan Daham and Marisa Puglione, with pieces inspired by the traffic of Beijing as well as the parking off dividers, by the movement of planets as well as moments of missed communication. \$15. 8pm. Also Nov. 16. 3153 17th St. Tix/info: 863-9834; odctheater.org

Sat 16

Visual Aid @ SOMArts Gallery

"Visual Aid's 9th Annual 'Big Deal' Art Sale and Exhibition," featuring three events rolled into one: An affordable art sale (more than 500 pieces of artwork by local artists, sold on a first-come, first-served basis at a fixed price of \$100 plus tax); a silent auction (13 pieces from top artists sold to the highest bidder); and a raffle (numerous exciting prizes to be given away). All proceeds benefit Visual Aid's programs for artists with life-threatening illnesses, including an art supply voucher program, art materials bank, exhibition opportunities, career development, and workshops and lecture series. \$20. Tix on sale at 3pm (your ticket number indicates your priority to buy art; some people camp out the night before to secure



It's a steal! Visual Aid's "Big Deal 2002" event offers 500 works of art, each for a fixed-price of \$100! Come grab some of the booty at SOMArts Gallery. Above, Michael Johnstone and Mrs. Vera (David Faulk) sell raffle tickets at Big Deal 2001. See Saturday.



Hedwig (Kevin Cahoon) grieves over the botched surgery that left her with an angry inch and no one to hold onto. At Victoria Theater. See Wed.

their early place in line); doors open 4pm; sale runs 5-8pm. SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan St. Info: 777-8242; www.visualaid.org

ArtRock

Opening: "Plaster Caster Exhibit," with plaster casts of famous rock-star penises and breasts, created by Cynthia Plaster Caster who got started as an art student in Chicago in the mid-'60s with an assignment to make a cast of something hard. The largest in her collection is of Jimi Hendrix, her first. Free. 7:30pm. Mon.-Sat. 11am-3:30pm thru Jan. 2003. 893 Folsom St. (at 5th St.). Info: 777-5736; artrock.com

HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute workshops: "Dyke Dating 303: Loving the Girl" with Angela Watrous (\$20; 1-4pm); "Photographic Portfolio" with Ron Herman offering instruction on how to organize and assemble a fine-art photography portfolio and present yourself as a professional artist (\$30; 1-4pm). SF Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), Room 302. Info: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

Geary Theater, downstairs

Postperformance Cabaret presents "Songs for a New World," A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts student Jason Robert Brown's theatrical song cycle (following Ruben Santiago-Hudson's Lackawanna Blues), directed by ACT music director Peter Maleitke. \$5 plus 1-drink minimum. 10pm. Also Nov. 17, 22 & 23. Fred's Columbia Room, Geary Theater, downstairs. Tix/info: 749-2228; www.act-sfbay.org

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents the SF premiere of cine-poet Travis Wilkerson's masterful film essay, "An Injury to One," a recounting of Wobbly history, Western labor and environmental struggles, following up on the lynching some years ago in Wilkerson's hometown of Butte, Montana, of I.W.W. organizer Frank Little. Plus Juliana Fredman and Jim Davis' "Safety Orange," a video discourse on the hyper-trophy of the prison industrial system, and other agitprop. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Sun 17

HMI @ EROS

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Erotic Massage: For Men" with Thomas Taylor & Jon Pendleton. Taylor has studied many forms of energy work including Shiatsu, yoga, chakra healing, Reiki, Tantra, and Taoist massage; Pendleton has certification for Shiatsu from the Shiatsu Healing School in Maryland. He has studied Taoist and Tantric massage. \$60. 2-6pm. 2051 Market St. (at Dolores). Info: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

Marlena's Bar

"Oklahomo," hosted by Mr. Cowboy SF 2002 Jeffrey Blanchfield and the Imperial Council of SF. Featuring a Canned Food Drive benefiting Project Open Hand — a new Mr. Cowboy SF tradition. Plus a raffle benefiting the Imperial Court of Truth or Dare Monarch Charity Fund. 6pm party time; 7pm show. 488 Hayes St. Info: www.mamasfamily.org/MamasEvents.htm

Ellard Hall

"GBT Midlife Men's Social," presented by MGM (Midlife Gay Men) in collaboration with Stop AIDS Project. A social gathering for all midlife gay/bi/trans men. At 4:30pm a 30-minute guided discussion will focus on "Finding Community for the Holidays." Free (donations appreciated). Reservations preferred. Call toll free 1 (866) 668-4634; email mgm-mhr@onebox.com

Mon 18

QComedy @ The Center

Janis Lipton hosts a bumper crop of LGBT! comedic talent, featuring Doug Holtsclaw, Guy Branum, Lisa Geduldig, David Kleinberg and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm doors; 8pm show. 1800 Market St., Room 200. Tix: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org. Info: www.QComedy.com

The Forum at YBCA

ArpaViva presents "Panopticon," harpist/composer Victoria Jordanova's new work addressing the issue of privacy in "surveillance society" when Big Brother becomes a Brother. Featuring the California E.A.R. Unit Ensemble, a masterful New Music group with Dorothy Stone (flute), Robin Lorentze (electric violin), Amy Knoles (percussion), and Jordanova (harp, harmonica), with video imagery by Relja Penzic, using miniature spy cameras attached on the wrists and bodies of the players. \$15 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. The Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); YerbaBuenaArts.org; panopticon.us

Tue 19

The Stud

"Trannyshack" welcomes guest hostess, part time rocker, part time porn star, and full-time cum slut Precious Moments, hosting her final show as Miss Trannyshack 2001 before passing on her title and sash next Sunday, Nov. 24 at the "7th Annual Miss Trannyshack Pageant 2002" at City Nights. \$6 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). DJ Pinky Ring rocks the house before and after. Miss Chocolate takes yer dough. 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

HMI @ EROS

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Sexploration & Romantic Power: For Men" with Frank Strona, offering new ways to explore your body, heart and dick. \$20. 7-10pm. 2051 Market St. (at Dolores). Info: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute workshop: "Frank O'Hara (and His Gay Ambient)" with Bruce Boone, who wrote a ground-breaking monograph on O'Hara and gay language/gay community for the first issue of Social Text Magazine. \$5-\$20 sliding. 7:30pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), Room Q11. Info: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

Wed 20

Victoria Theatre

Opening night: Kevin Cahoon stars in the gender-bending rock spectacle

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch," written by John Cameron Mitchell (who originated the Hedwig role in the 1998 Off-Broadway production), with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask. Featuring Lisa M. Engelken in the role of Yitzak. Music direction by Perry Jay (Schlatko/drums), with Matthew Black (Skszp, keys/guitar/vocals), Nick Fogler (Krzysztoff, guitar) and Matthew Sperry (Jacek, bass). Directed by Jason Eagan. \$40 opening gala; all other shows \$25-\$30. 8pm (plus 11pm late show Sat.). 2961 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 863-7576; tickets.com; hedwigsf.com

SF War Memorial & Performing Arts Center

"AIDS Emergency Fund 20th Anniversary Gala," emceed by Hank Plante and headlined by Rita Moreno and Sharon McNight. VIP guests enjoy cocktail reception with gourmet foods from Bay Area restaurants at more than 20 tasting stations, plus 15 wine stations. In addition to Moreno and McNight, entertainers from the past 20 years of shows will pay tribute to past and present volunteers, corporate supporters and board members. \$125 VIP tix include VIP reception at 6pm, silent auction in the Green Room, and musical revue at 8pm featuring Rita Moreno and others, followed by a dessert reception. \$50 gen'l admission tix include music revue and reception. Tix/info: 551-5190; www.cityboxoffice.com

Thu 21

'Queer Photo Salon' @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute Arts & Lecture Series presents "The Queer Photo Salon Series," celebrating and showcasing the images of our communities that document our lives and history for future generations. The series brings audiences and photographers of different backgrounds together to learn from and appreciate each other's work. Featuring Phyllis Christopher, Rick Gerharter (the famed BAR photographer will showcase his images from Cuba), and Allison Kaiser. Curated by Chloe Atkins. \$5-\$20 sliding. 7:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 865-5633; harveymilk.org

Art Gallery, SFSU

Opening: "Intervention: A Cause for Action," an exhibition of artwork concerning women's human rights and women's consciousness, expressing the spirit of resistance against violence and oppression. Featuring works by Ellena Steiner, George Metivier, Marilyn A. Ryan, Somer R. Harrold, Janna Stern and Melba Abela. Mon.-Wed. 10am-3pm; Thu./Fri. 10am-3pm. Thru Dec. 18. Info: 338-2580.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

The Lawrence Pech Dance Company presents its Fall 2002 Season with the world premieres of Artistic Director Lawrence Pech's multi-dimensional "Angels: Fallen and Otherwise," and Val Caniparoli's "Binkl," set to the retro fifties era "bachelor pad" music of Juan Garcia Esquivel, and the premiere of Julia Adam's "The Medium is the Message." "Angels" features music by Kurt Erickson performed live by the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, with boy soprano soloists from the Ragazzi Peninsula Boys Choir. \$30-\$35 (\$5 discount for seniors, students, children). 8pm Nov. 21-23; 2pm Sun., Nov. 24. 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS; LawrencePechDance.org

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Mr. Florida Leather 2003 Dave Thomas, center, reveled in victory and comradeship with 1st runner-up Steven Hines, left, and 2nd runner-up Michael Todaro. They competed last Sunday, November 10 at the Junk Yard Bar in Ft. Lauderdale.

Leather sashes galore

Dave Thomas is Mr. Florida Leather 2003

by Mister Marcus

The International Mr. Leather 2003 roster got three more hopefuls over the past weekend as competitions were held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Ottawa-Hull in Canada, and Palm Springs, California. In Chicago a new Mr. International Rubber was named, and a month or so ago, a Mr. Austin Leather 2003 from Texas was chosen — Travis Hyde.

Since it was a holiday weekend with nasty weather all up and down the East Coast, my trip to Florida was marred by plane delays, missed connections, changes in stopover airports and gaggles of travelers filling up airports all over the country. But Mother Nature smiled down on Fort Lauderdale's leather scene, where it was a warm and balmy mid-70s, making for a thoroughly delightful scenario.

Five men came to vie for the title: Dave Thomas, Michael Todaro, Steven Plunkett, Steven Hines and Jerry Miller. They faced judges Stephen Weber, Todd Kitchens, Daddy Lou, Slave O, Butch Arnold, Mark Greene, Lou Molnar and Boy Ron.

On Friday, after the meet and greet at the Ramrod, came the mandatory interviews, leather image, speech, jock appearance and on-stage questions presentations, followed by a dynamite appearance by Pamela Stanley. Interviews took place on Saturday morning, and auctions for dinner dates on Saturday night at the Eagle.

On Sunday, the sun rose with many expectations at Fort Leatherdale's newest club, The JunkYard. The contest was held outdoors in the patio, with Shann Carr in a dynamite role as the Mistress of Ceremonies, and Marilyn Zaquera who insisted she be referred to as the "tally master." Oh, okay Ms. Z!!

Fresh from a gay cruise to Mexico, Shann outdid herself with anecdotes from a ship with 700 queens on a rampage, pillaging and plundering each other. Hilarious!



After the parade of colors came the national anthem by the delightful Shannon Short, and then the contest segments with an intro of titleholders. Finally the announcement of the winner(s) was at hand. Todd Kitchens gave a heart-rending eight-minute step-aside speech to great applause as the moment of truth arrived.

As the second runner-up, the judges chose the dark and handsome Michael Todaro; as first runner-up, they gave the nod to Steven Hines, and then everyone knew who'd been chosen as the big winner: Direct from St. Petersburg, Mr. Florida Leather 2003 is Dave Thomas, a studly hunk who just happens to be a teacher and mentor to the youth of his community, as well as an actor/director.

There was bedlam in the Junk Yard patio. Cameras were clicking and whirling away as the new MFL claimed his prize. Mr. Thomas will represent the state of Florida at IML in May 2003.

Heaps of accolades go to

Mauro Montoya on his second effort with this contest.

As an aside, that dude from Toronto named Spitboy Arnis, who volunteers to be spit upon for donations benefiting a local AIDS charity, was a hoot! What color hanky stands for a spit fetish, Lolita Wolf?

Summing it up, Mr. Leather Florida 2003 was a smashing success, with a winner that bears watching. He is very sharp, very articulate and deemed to be sincere, caring and responsive.

All roads lead to San Francisco

In Palm Springs, almost 350 people witnessed Don Mentink (Mr. Barracks 2003) capture the Mr. Palm Springs Leather 2003 at the Desert Palms Inn on Saturday night, November 9. The first runner-up was Lawson Bryan. Mr. Mentink advances to IML 2003 next May.

The weekend before (November 2 and 3), several of the 2003 SOMA Bare Chest Calendar men traveled to Palm Springs to sell and autograph calendars and according to "reliable sources" a good time was had by all.

In Chicago, the world-famous CellBlock bar hosted the Mr. International Rubber 2003 contest and would you believe a Chicago man won the title? He's William "Rubberwill" Schendel, who won out over seven other contestants. The first runner-up was John Reddy of Virginia, and Elmar Koeller from Germany was the second runner-up.

The Ottawa Knights MC staged their Mr. Leather Ottawa 2003 contest at Barrymore's in a

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, November 13-16

Leatherfest Week in New York; SM fetish fun with social programs, workshops and leather market sponsored by GMSMA.

Mr. Pistons Leather 2003 contest at that bar in North Long Beach. At my deadline, still no details.

Saturday, November 16

Mr. Detroit Eagle Leather 2003 contest at, at the Detroit Eagle in Motown.

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900, with a \$6 tab for members and \$7 for others. Bring non-perishable food and receive free raffle tickets.

Wednesday, November 20

AIDS Emergency Fund annual banquet at the Green Room in the War Memorial Building with

several of your friends being honored for their efforts. The VIP cocktail receptions starts at 1800.

Weekend, November 24-26

Nigel Cottrell produces the Tri-State Leather Contest in Cincinnati, Ohio. The whole weekend is only \$55 and the host hotel is Day's Inn Downtown. For info surf to: www.tristateleather.com. I'll be there judging, so you'll be the first to know the results.

Saturday, November 23

The San Franciscans MC host the Butch Brunch at the Swedish American Hall on Upper Market. Don't miss this one.

Golden Gate Guards MC 16th anniversary (but not a word on where or when at my deadline). Grand opening of The Barracks (formerly Wolf's Den) in Cathedral City near Palm Springs this weekend. For info: www.thebarracksbar.com.

POLKSTRASSE

The big eight oh!

by Sweet Lips

Emperor Steve, David Kapp and L. James request the pleasure of your company for the birthday celebration of Yours Truly, as Sweet Lips turns 80, having reached that grand age when life really kicks into high gear! To prove it, I'll be having a big to-do on Saturday, November 30, down at my favorite Polk Street haunt, Club Rendez-Vous, 1312 Polk St. (at Bush), where of course I tend bar, and where all my friends are. They'll all be coming down to toast my elevation to octogenarian!

The party lasts from 2-7 p.m., during which time there will be the unveiling of "The FINAL Hanging," which you must see to appreciate. Special presentations and honors will be bestowed at 5 p.m., and of course cocktails will be pouring liberally. Come join the fun!

And for those keeping track, the Empress José's 80th birthday happens on the 12th of December, making me 12 days older. Yes, I'm still ahead in the race!

It's Sweet Lips' world, we're just living in it.

I'll be in Puerto Vallarta in December, partying with Dick, Hal and Mark from Bisbee, Arizona.

Dick Deemer just returned from P.V. after seeing his Ramón, and said they are already rebuilding the damaged parts of town. Should be ready by the time we get there.

In other news, our favorite caterer and chef, Dennis Tyler, is home getting well after his quadruple heart bypass, and he's doing well with the help of Kurt Wentworth, who is back from the state of Washington after a year.

Uncle Bert's Place in the Castro still has the handsome Marlon working on Saturday and Sunday mornings, so drop in and visit with him, a most charming man.

Rumor has it that Katie's Bar on Polk St. (formerly the P.S.) is putting in a restaurant. Keep an eye out for further developments.

Here's wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving in advance, and a reminder that Christmas is almost here. If you're out holiday shopping, don't forget Polk Street, a great place for gifts. For collectors of American dinnerware and art pottery, Naomi's (1817 Polk St.) has some very interesting pieces. Take a look. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

"Decade of Decadence" celebration of their 10th anniversary. Doug Connors was the winner, with Steven Hould the first runner-up and Ryan Lanyon the second runner-up.

Last week, Daddy's Bar in San Francisco celebrated its 7th anniversary with Wednesday and Thursday described as pure madness. Despite howling winds and rain, a good crowd materialized both nights. Anniversary pins and drink specials on Wednesday

night, with T.J. Istvan and Sheba doing the honors and knocking 'em dead with their vocals. Thursday night, Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet hosted the event. Candidate for Supervisor of District 8 Bevin Duffy stopped by, as did Assemblyman-elect Mark Leno. Ray Hippe was named 2002 Employee of the Year and — surprise! Lenny Broberg was named Daddy of the Year 2002. Much applause and fun had by all. Best wishes for continued success!

To top it all off, the 49ers managed to eke out a victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in a game that was televised nationwide. I man-

aged to catch the last quarter during the victory dinner at a spiffy Mexican restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

So hedonism and victory prevailed from coast to coast, and here it is mid-November with holidays just around the corner. Keep up the good work. I'll be reporting to you from Cincinnati, Ohio next week as the Tri-State Leather 2003 contest unfolds. Stay tuned.

For further news of the leather world around the world, log on to www.L LeatherPage.com. Seasoned and unbiased columnists will keep you informed of what's happening around the nation. Thanks, Joel! ▼

The Food Chain

◀ page 31

ing performance that works well in director Christopher Jenkins' spry production.

The missing nuances to be found in Silver's stylized characters not only touch Cox's Serge, but also Donna Trousdale's Amanda, who is married to the man Serge wants for himself. But Trousdale handles well the near-monologue of the first scene as she prattles on the phone about her life to a crisis-center volunteer.

Maya Mahrer broadly plays Bea, the antagonist counselor, with a New York Jewish persona that could stand some modulation.

Modulation does not belong in the same sentence as Dawson Moore's Otto, a performance that brashly tramples all familiar limits. Outfitted in a fat suit, Moore creates a character of such pathetic dimensions that it's impossible not to laugh at his misery. The taciturn Ford is a character who doesn't do much, but Eric Rice does it well — at least until the dippy conclusion.

Silver provided both a comic

and tragic ending for his play, and the original plan with this production was to let audiences choose. That option has been discarded, and a schedule of finales tagged as comic or tragic is available on NCTC's website. Even sight unseen, after seeing the comic ending, I would opt for the tragic one. *The Food Chain* is hardly a happy-ever-after kind of play. ▼

The Food Chain will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through Dec. 1. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 861-8972.

Dennis Quaid

◀ page 35

while I sat at home, with no one calling me for any good acting gigs. It was very frustrating."

Instead of staying at the bottom, Quaid decided to stop feeling sorry for himself, got into rehab and took some time off. "I made a conscious decision to take

a couple of years off, after I cleaned up, so that I could get back into the shape and mindset that I was before I screwed up. I was very fortunate to be cast in *The Rookie*. No one expected or even thought remotely that it was going to be a \$100 million film. It was a G movie, with no sex, no violence. Not even a swear. The fact that it was such a huge hit has helped me a lot. I am getting bet-

ter-looking scripts now."

Quaid can sleep easier now. Though *Far from Heaven* isn't opening wide until late November, Hollywood has already taken notice. "I hope the movie makes \$100 million, too," says Quaid. "It deserves to make 10 times that much. I am probably prouder of this film than any other I have done. I am glad that I took the ride with Todd. He is a genius." ▼

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Film Arts Fest

◀ Arts cover

(Castro, 11/17)

If women hang 10 off Oahu, men rule the retro auto world of today's Cuba, lovingly depicted in David Schendel's *Yank Tanks*. Schendel's plastic-surgeon brother's trips to teach reconstructive surgery on children to Cuban doctors was the official reason for the brothers' presence on the island. They discovered where the estimated 150,000 pre-'60s American cars in Cuba before the revolution had gone: nowhere at all. Amazed at the fleet of Cadillacs, Buicks and DeSotos in mint condition cruising the streets of Havana, Schendel enlisted the aide of Cuban filmmaker Javier Bajana to explore the vast underground network of private businessmen: mechanics reconstructing 50-year-old engines, inventors skimming raw metal off the street, octogenarian race-car drivers recalling the golden moment when a Buick outran a Jaguar, artists waxing philosophically about the aesthetic principles of Detroit in the age of Eisenhower, and owners who purr about their autos, "My wife calls my car her rival."

While technically illegal in Socialist Cuba, the petty capitalism involved in keeping the old cars on the road is nicknamed Cubanismo, meaning the maze of unofficial winks, trading of favors, and outright bribes that pass between the car guys and Castro's bureaucrats. Schendel's camera also captures the pure joy on the faces and body language of virtually all the men seen on screen, from the 77-year-old owner of an underground garage to the skinny teenage boys kicking soccer balls around the back alleys where the car trade thrives. (Brava, 11/16)

A not-so-happy fella is at the heart of Alex Beckstead's *Trailer Park Blues*. Beckstead and camera era hitch a ride with his maternal grandparents, Bill and Peggy Heiner, as they head their RV toward a Phoenix area trailer park,



Bill Heiner is at the heart of Alex Beckstead's *Trailer Park Blues*.

whose directions include this advice: "Take the exit off I-17, right after the sign that reads, 'Federal Prison — Don't Stop for Hitchhikers.'"

Married 50 years, Bill was a union ironworker, making boiler-makers and drinking down his share, while Peggy had seven kids underfoot. At 70, Bill has time on his hands, a morbid sense of humor (reading the obituaries, looking for his name), and a powerful thirst. Peggy declares about the sloppily drunk Bill, "I don't know what I'd do without him. I don't want to find out." (Brava, 11/16)

Dylan's Run, Steven Johnson's thoughtful portrait of a young black man's pursuit of a Georgia Congressional seat, will entertain and perplex. Dylan Glenn is the 31-year-old great-grandson of freed slaves who aims at becoming the first black Republican to win a House seat in the Deep South since Reconstruction. Among the ironies at work: the 2nd District in Southwest Georgia is home to Jimmy Carter; marked George Wallace's best showing in the state; a KKK stronghold, was the site of the last lynching in the US; and its seat is currently held by Sanford Bishop, the avuncular representative of Atlanta's black Democratic Party establishment.

We see Dylan's talent for retail politics honed at occasions such as the National Grits Festival. We eavesdrop as he collects money at a Washington party of big fat white guys. We see mud slung — Dylan's accused of dating white women, Bishop of backing gay rights and gun control — and we wonder if young Dylan can stay true to his values while wooing his party's mostly white base. Even his white campaign adviser concedes, "When people tell you, 'I'm for you,' you kind of wonder if they're just being nice." *Dylan's Run* is a timely check of the political pulse in this most upsetting of years. (Castro, 11/17)

Practically inventing his own genre, San Francisco's cutting-edge improv-driven filmmaker Brien Burroughs delivers another off-kilter comedy before he's had a chance to pay off the debts from the first. His first feature, *Sucker-*

fish, was a savage parody of the pet-supply business. **Security** reveals the comically dark underbelly of the rent-a-cop industry, as two security guards play at private detective while coping with unresolved male bonding issues. The improv dialogue has its ups and downs, but the film delivers its share of laughs mixed with unexpected pathos. (Brava, 11/16)

Three films stand out in **Man-Handled**, a shorts program spanning many expressions of masculinity. Most controversial is *Our Brothers*, *Our Sons*, Jim Arnold's exploration of the "barebacking" proclivities of a younger generation of gay men. A video fight breaks out between baby boomers and members of Generation X. In Dan McKinney's *Pinned*, an ex-Catholic schoolboy takes a licking from his old wrestling coach, while searching for answers as to just what high school wrestling did for him, and what it means for a new crop of duffers. And in *Guys and Dolls*, Rock K. Schroeter talks to the men who never grew tired of playing with dolls. (Brava, 11/15) ▼

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FILM

Far from Heaven

◀ Arts cover

several different venues, even Cathy's best friend Eleanor (Patricia Clarkson) finds the limits of her understanding pushed to the breaking point. Sinking in a quagmire of social transgressions, the Whitaker marriage crumbles gloriously across the screen. Cathy's attraction to Raymond grows as Frank continues to fall into gay bars and the arms of male strangers.

Mark Friedberg's exquisite production design and Sandy Powell's costumes are a perfect recreation of 1950s suburban glamour. Haynes' script is wonderfully on target, satirizing the films and morals of the '50s while simultaneously telling a compelling story that is never played for laughs. The area where Haynes, the director, diverges from the source of his inspiration is performance style. None of the actors delivers a parody. If Haynes attempted to recreate the acting styles of Lana Turner and John Gavin, *Far from Heaven* would simply be camp. But the actors employ 21st-century naturalism in their portrayals, and this is a wise choice.



Julianne Moore plays a long-suffering spouse in Todd Haynes' new film.

Under the surface

Julianne Moore is perfect as the long-suffering spouse. When Cathy's husband punches her in the eye, she modestly bows her head and asks if he would kindly bring her some ice. Moore is a luminous miracle of restraint, yet she manages to convey the gut-wrenching turmoil lurking just below her character's surface. Playing against type, Dennis

Quaid takes on the more pedestrian task of playing the closeted homosexual, but does it with great style and believability. Dennis Haysbert's confident portrayal of the black gardener makes him the real male sex symbol of the film. His Raymond is compassionate, intelligent, reserved, and in his own quiet way, a hunk. And Patricia Clarkson adroitly assays the role of Cathy's best friend, a brittle, well-intended woman who ultimately cannot transcend her own prejudices.

There is so much going on in *Far from Heaven*, on so many levels, it is almost an embarrassment of riches. The most amazing accomplishment of the film is that it succeeds in everything it attempts. But before viewers lapse into the comfortable security of thinking how lucky they are to no longer live in antediluvian times, remember this: even today, there are some places in our country where the destruction of these characters' lives will still be perceived as "just desserts." That is why we need filmmakers like Todd Haynes. ▼

Far from Heaven opens Nov. 15 at the Clay in San Francisco.



Moore and Dennis Haysbert: '50s glamour via 21st-century naturalism.



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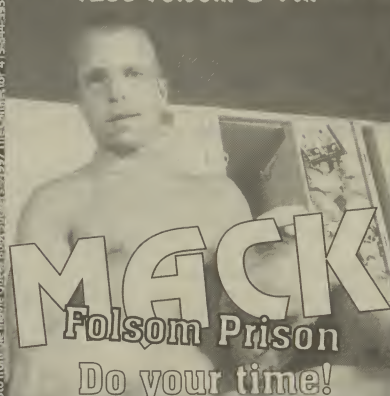
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Youthful bravura

by Glen Helfand

Running with Scissors by Augusten Burroughs; St. Martin's Press, \$23.95

Screwy behavior seems kind of entertaining until you understand its deeper meanings. That's why during youth and adolescence, in order to survive, we channel the confusion of our crazy families and our identities into something like a badge of honor. Or at least a good yarn about adolescent excesses. There's something so colorful about those iconic stories of playing ding dong ditch, of the crazy things we did on drugs, and the teenage sexual escapades we'd never engage in, had we known better.

Running with Scissors is a memoir that covers the six-to-16 chunk of author Augusten Burroughs' seriously screwy childhood. Fitting that kid-to-adolescent frame, it's a kooky, bemused view of events that would read as

horrific from an adult perspective. It's a story told with wit and kitschy '60s pop culture references, and a book that takes to heart the idea that if the author didn't laugh, he'd cry. That same equation applies to readers.

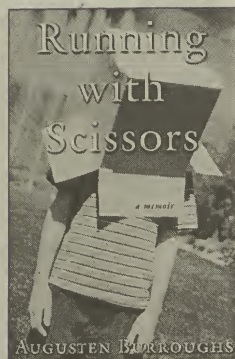
Burroughs, who has written a comic novel about a mythic shopping channel and some truly hilarious articles for Salon.com's sex section, is another entry into the David Sedaris/David Rakoff school in which black comedy serves as the coping mechanism, the candy-coating over heartache, disappointment and longing.

The figure holding the sharp instrument in Burroughs' book is Deirdre, his mom. She's an aspiring, chain-smoking Anne Sexton poetess and a tangle of era-indicators: More cigarettes, Jean Naté, Dippity Doo, Pucci dresses, and ficus trees in chrome planters. She's a self-centered drama queen whose madness at first seems kinda fun. Little Augusten is clearly smitten with her bigger-than-life charisma, even if he's aware of

her failings. "My mother looked alarmed, like she'd just been diagnosed with a disease that would prevent her from ever being able to talk about herself again," he writes.

The good doctor

Mom's mood swings are as grand, and violent, as Dad's distance, and it doesn't take long for the pair to bust up. Augusten is left in the charge of his crazy mama, who increasingly relies on her unorthodox shrink, Dr. Finch, a Santa Claus-ish guy with "eyebrows that resembled toothbrush bristles." In Mom's more difficult moments, our narrator is sent to the Doctor's house, a dilapidated manse in an otherwise patrician neighborhood. In keeping with his free-living practice, Casa Finch is home to various high-maintenance patients, among them an unstable homosexual and an obsessive/compulsive old lady. The place is decorated with perpetually unwashed dishes and an X-mas tree that sheds dry pine needles as



it lingers there into the summer.

Augusten is at first mortified by the surroundings, but as youth will allow, he adapts to its insanity — especially after his mom has various episodes and lesbian affairs, and signs him over to Finch as his legal guardian. Aware of his own gay identity from an early age, he's fascinated with Neil, the gay patient who lives in the barn out back. It doesn't take long for Neil to stuff his cock down Augusten's throat — a rape scene that plays as dark comedy — and the two fall into a mad, fickle love affair that meets with the blessings of his mother and Dr. Finch.

Of course, the relationship is fraught with issues. Augusten's monogamous interests in Neil are driven by boredom and raging hormones, as is indicated by the moment when he gets a lesson in the ambiguous pleasures of anal sex, using a Queen Helene hair product for lube. "He pulled out of me and I was surprised by a sudden feeling of emptiness."

Burroughs rarely lingers on that sense of ennui. In a post-traumatic stress equation, the horrors

haven't really sunk in. Instead, they give way to descriptions of wacky obsessions and kooky shenanigans around the excessively eccentric household. He dreams of becoming a hair-care magnate, which leads to other tales of hair-dressing aberrations. A newfound Finch sister suggests Augusten become a writer, a profession he fears because it's equated with his mother's madness. During a chapter when the shrink takes to making daily "toilet bowl readings," in which he inspects his turds as prophetic signs from God, Sis urges him to write it all down. "Even if I did, nobody would believe it," Augusten replies.

And there is something unbelievable about this book. The moments described can be terrifying, but Burroughs' tone is flip and fun. It illustrates a campy strategy for dealing with dysfunction, a wink approach used by Sedaris in his memoir-based stories. But as with Sedaris, Burroughs isn't a particularly introspective writer. His prose is more concerned with being breezy and precocious. It's difficult to gauge the sense of just how knowing the narrator is of what he's going through.

But then again, who really gets what's going on when in the midst of their own cruel story of youth? Burroughs leaves us off at the fork in the road toward urban queer adulthood, one way paved with Mary Tyler Moore optimism, the other with nubile hustler street-grit. To his credit, Burroughs leaves us wanting the next chapter, one with a sharper edge than the safety scissors he's used to construct his childhood recollections. ▼

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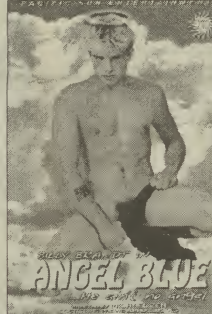
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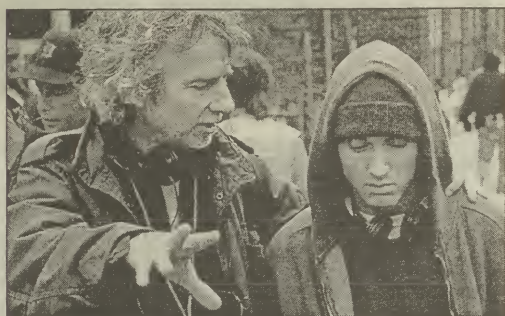
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8 Mile director Curtis Hanson on location in Detroit with star Eminem.

Fight club

Eminem a hit in '8 Mile'

by David Lambe

My buddy calls Eminem a "guilty pleasure," meaning so far he's enjoyed all the tracks he's downloaded for free. But seeing a whole movie with Em's crowd — even though we would not be paying — this was a serious commitment. As the opening titles of *8 Mile* hit the screen and the house lights didn't dim, some hardcore fans of the blue-eyed rapper's megahit album *The Eminem Show* started to get a little agitated. I was somewhat nervous about the 250-lb. young man who had jumped a few rows to plant his ample butt in the seat next to me. I take notes on the film with a fine-point Sharpie, and my new friend sniffed, "Dude, I'm getting high off that marker!" Fix-

ing him with my "I'm the law in this saloon" stare, I muttered, "I'm a critic," and started scribbling away.

As soon as the theater lights are extinguished, we see Detroit playing itself, the full R-rated version in all its tawdry glory, captured by Mexican director of photography Rodrigo Prieto, whose work on the gritty *Amores Perros*, with its blood-drenched dogfight scenes, inflamed critics and art-film crowds last year, letting them know that nothing was too vile to be shown. The endless sprawl of body shops, shooting ranges, check-cashing parlors, abandoned buildings, and formerly graceful mansions turned into crackhouses: This is the post-riot Detroit many of my late-'70s gay friends fled from, the Detroit we haven't

page 44 ►

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8 Mile

◀ page 42

seen on screen since '78, when Paul Shrader shot *Blue Collar* with the suppressed rage of a multiracial cast of auto-workers.

Screenwriter Scott Silver's original script was called *Fight Music*, and sure enough the completed film resembles nothing so much as a hip-hop boxing picture, with its cast of the usual suspects: the aspiring fighter, his true-blue friend, his crooked manager, his mama, the good girl, the bad girl. The fighter in this case, Em's character Jimmy "Rabbit" Smith, Jr., is trying to make it through a daunting series of rap bouts, in which each rapper is given 45 seconds to tear his opponent's ego into shreds for the benefit of a howling mob. Silver (who wrote and directed the street-savvy *Johns* for David Arquette and Lucas Haas), with an uncredited assist from Jesse Wigutow, wrote speeches minus street slang, letting the actors improv the slang in their performances. The result is a more passionate yet intelligible *patois*.

Rabbit runs

As the picture opens, Rabbit's been gaining a reputation in the 'hood as a white boy with balls and wit. His first rap fight is a disaster, as Rabbit freezes up, is humiliated offstage, and winds up puking all over himself in the alley. His best friend, Future (the coolly charismatic Mekhi Phifer), tries to soothe him as Rabbit gropes for a change of clothes in a trash bag he's left in the alley.

The first thing that strikes you about Em is how those gorgeous blue eyes fix on the object of their interest. Everybody's a Bambi in those headlights. A proficient enough actor, his talent shines through when he has nothing to say. You really want to know what he's thinking, and what violence may be stored in that slender frame. A musical heavyweight, he would fight as a featherweight.

Director Curtis Hansen wisely refrained from giving Em's screen debut a wall-to-wall music track. The silences that frame these desperate lives pay unexpected comic dividends. During a scene outside his mom's shabby rowhouse, Rabbit and Future go giddy with giggles as they poke fun at his mom's hillbilly boyfriend with a rapper version of "Sweet Home Alabama."

Queer audiences will appreciate the bone they're thrown, midway through the film. Just when we think Rabbit has developed hip-hop autism, he has a lunch-truck showdown with a homophobic rival in which he lays down a riff that could play at a GLAAD awards banquet: "Okay folks, enough of the gay jokes, especially since Paul's gay and you're a faggot," and, "Why are you fucking with a gay guy when you're the one that's got HIV?"

The factory sex between Rabbit and his "good girl" friend Alex (as saucily played by Brittany Murphy) is sweaty yet oddly detached, almost like some kind of workout exercise. Rabbit seems much more alive when he's rapping, fighting or hangin' with his crew.

8 Mile doesn't really address the suspicions about Eminem voiced by queer folks and women, but starts to plant a countermyth. Tipper Gore and Lynne Cheney may give this film a Bronx cheer, but I'm starting to muster some real enthusiasm for that nasty Marshall Mathers boy. ▼

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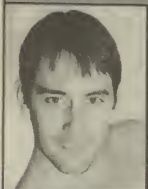
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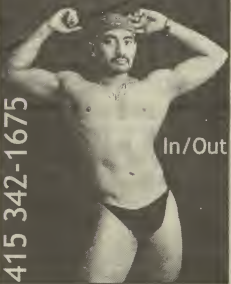


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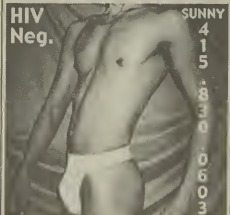
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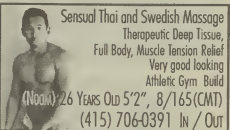
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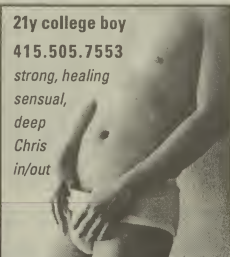
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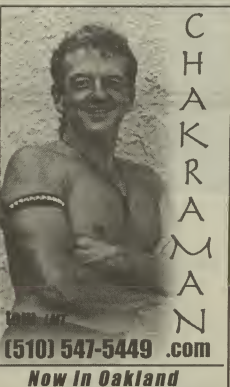
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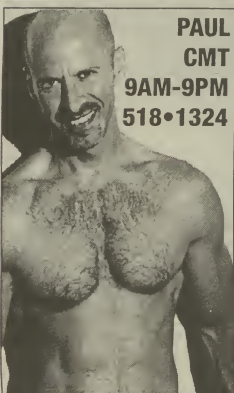
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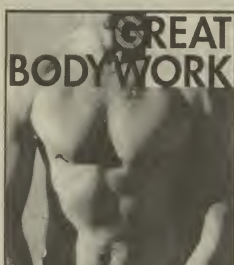
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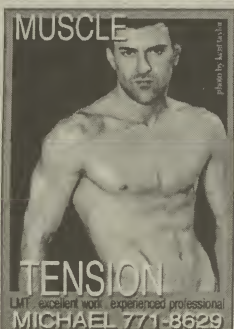
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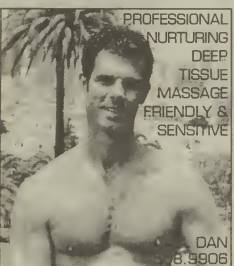
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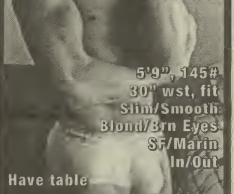
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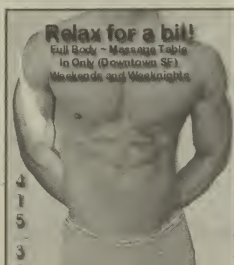
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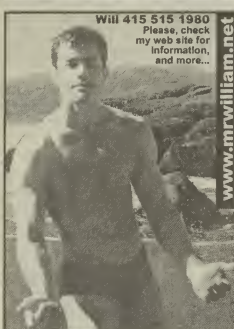
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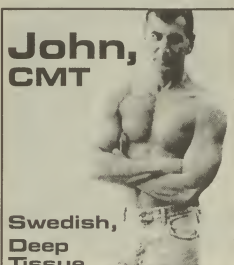
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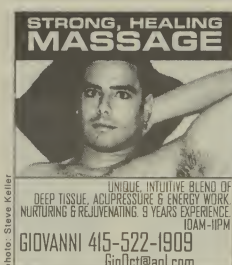
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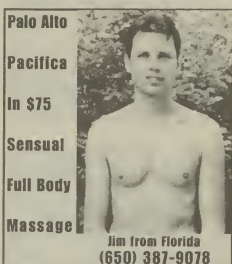
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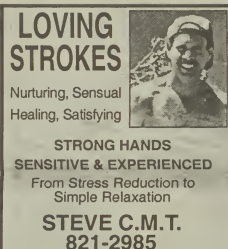


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\$50 Great hands from Stan 641-8221

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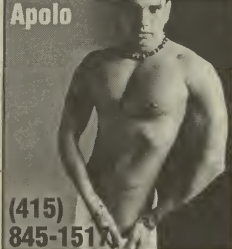
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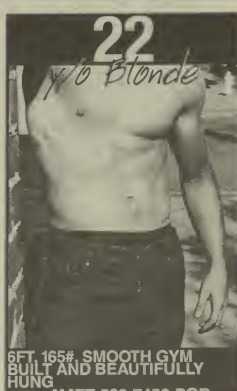
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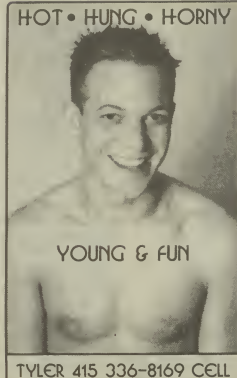
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MODEL/
ESCORTS


22
y/o Blonde

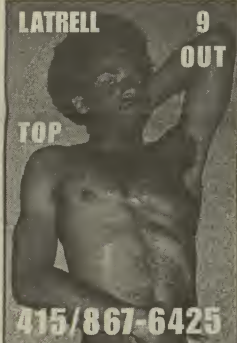
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Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken\$80

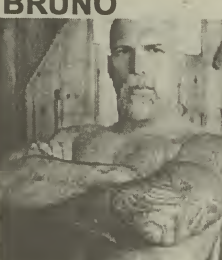
MODEL/ESCORTS

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6'215#
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42yo,
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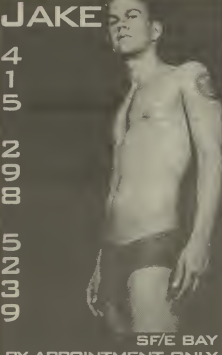
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5'8", 160#28yo blu/br
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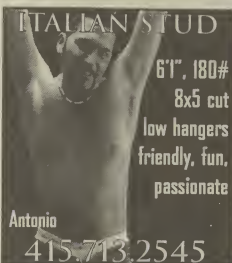
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Call 4 stars
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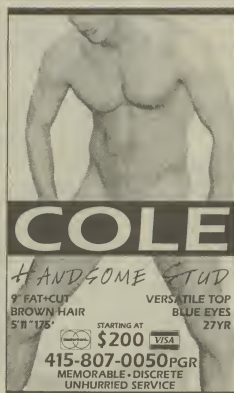
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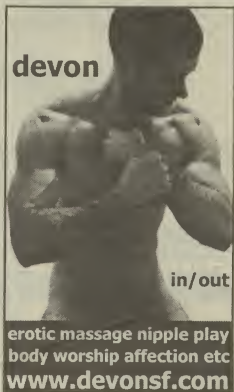
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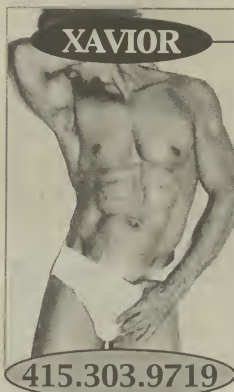
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Let HIV stop before it gets to you.

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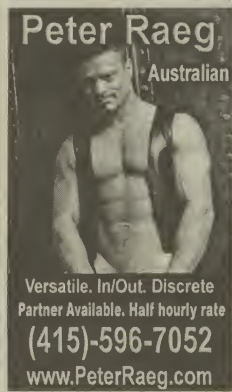
Mike, 37, 5'10", 200#, Bl/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hung
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Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/\$80


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Versatile
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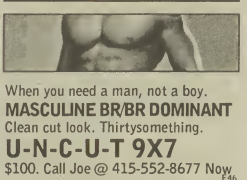
6'2"
32yrs
8uc
917-216-9741 out



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YOU SHOULD
SEE MY PLACE.

IT'S
A
DUMP!



AND EVEN LATER...

YOU ARE ONE
AMAZING PENIS.

YES!

SLAP!



THE NEXT DAY...

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GREAT. SEE YA.

DON'T FORGET
YOUR...UH... FRIENDS.

WE'RE
STAYIN'!
NOW MAKE US
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